



Daily Report

Latin America

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Monday
28 August 1989

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CONTENTS

28 August 1989

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Abrantes, Other MININT Officers Admit Guilt [Havana Radio]	1
U.S. 'Interventionism' in Central America Viewed [Havana Radio]	1
Government Reacts to Political Events in Poland	1
Havana Notes New Prime Minister [Havana TV]	1
Solidarity 'Imposing' Interests [Havana Radio]	2
Panamanian Envoy on OAS Meeting, U.S. Actions [Havana TV]	2
Delegation Attending Panamanian Workers Congress [Havana Radio]	3
DPRK President Sends Condolences to Castro [Havana TV]	4
Peace Group Demands S. Korean Student's Release [Havana TV]	4
DPRK Sports Official Makes Stopover Visit [Havana Radio]	4
Balaguer Welcomes Back 200 'Internationalists' [Havana TV]	4
Ship Returns From Angola With Weapons [Havana TV]	4
Weapons Unloaded [Havana TV]	5
Annual Trade Agreement With Nicaragua Renewed [Havana TV]	5
Commentary Sees Indifference to Colombian Events [Havana International]	5
Villa Clara Plant Manufactures Parabolic Antennas [Havana TV]	5
Women Arrested for Robbery, Currency Trafficking [Havana Radio]	6

Antigua and Barbuda

Ministry of Trade, Industry, Commerce Formed [CANAL]	6
--	---

Barbados

Sandiford Denies Alleged Foreign Reserves Crisis [CANAL]	6
--	---

Bahamas

Nation Backs Colombia's Antidrug Efforts [CANAL]	7
--	---

Haiti

Avril Stresses Need To Combat Illiteracy [L'UNION 22-23 Aug]	7
Further on Avril at ONECA [Port-au-Prince Radio]	8
Guadeloupe Mayor Reacts to Caricom Statement [Port-au-Prince Radio]	8
Country's National Presses Close Temporarily [Port-au-Prince Radio]	8
Radio Cacique's Newsroom Journalists Strike [Port-au-Prince Radio]	9
APN Issues Press Release on Arrests of Members [Port-au-Prince Radio]	9

Jamaica

Joint Commission To Expand Relations Launched [Bonaire Radio]	9
Industry, Commerce Minister's Life Threatened [CANAL]	9
Phone System Isolates Nation From Rest of World [CANAL]	9
Lecturer Forced To Leave Belize by Authorities [CANAL]	10

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica

Church Mediating To End Strike in Limon [AFP]	11
---	----

El Salvador

President Alfredo Cristiani Interviewed 24 Aug [San Salvador TV]	11
Cristiani on Talks With FMLN, Nicaraguan Aid [Buenos Aires REUTER]	19
Dialogue Commission Proposed to Legislature [Hamburg DPA]	20
Army Dislodges Textile Workers From Factory [ACAN]	20
Rebel Radio Airs Battle Reports 12-14 Aug [Radio Farabundo Marti]	20

Honduras

Azcona on U.S. Aid After Tela Agreement [EL HERALDO 23 Aug]	22
---	----

Nicaragua

Ortega Gives Speech on Sandinist TV Anniversary [Managua TV]	22
Ortega To Attend Nonaligned Summit in Belgrade [Managua Radio]	26
Ortega: COSEP, News Media 'Irresponsible' [Managua Radio]	26
Coverage of Events, Preparations for Dec Elections	26
Ortega Recovering in Poll [ACAN]	26
Nunez on Elections, Foreign Aid [Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU 25 Aug]	27
UN Commission Begins Work [Managua Radio]	29
Honduran Soldiers Prevent Repatriation at Border [Managua Radio]	29
Defense Minister H. Ortega Says Contras Fleeing [ACAN]	29
Assembly Secretary on Political Prisoners' Release [Buenos Aires REUTER]	30
Contras, Sandinists Talk Demobilization [AFP]	30
Ortega Discusses Canal Feasibility Report [ACAN]	31
RN Leader Roberto Ferrey's Arrival Postponed [Hamburg DPA]	31
UNO Adopts Official Governing Platform [LA PRENSA 25 Aug]	31
Human Rights Leader Reacts to Government Claims [Managua Radio]	33

Panama

U.S. Army Accused of Detaining Citizens [LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 24 Aug]	35
FDP Spokesman: Forces on 'State of Alert' [AFP]	35
'Imminent' U.S. Intervention [ACAN]	35
Solis Palma on New Government, U.S. Ties [Panama City Radio]	36
University Students Front Pickets U.S. Embassy [Panama City TV]	37
Minister Ritter's OAS Speech Criticizes U.S. [CRITICA 25 Aug]	37
Returns From Meeting [ACAN]	38
Duque Blames Opposition for Talks Failure [Panama City ACAN]	39
Escobar Defense of Noriega at OAS Praised [CRITICA 25 Aug]	39
OAS Resolution Termed 'Disappointing' [Panama City TV]	40
Electoral Tribunal President on Elections, OAS [Panama City TV]	40
ADOC's Arias Calderon on OAS Position [Panama City Radio]	41
Noriega Said Met With Libya's Al-Qadhdhafi [LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 25 Aug]	41
Peruvian Ambassador Recalled for Consultations [ACAN]	41
Venezuelan President Does Not Support Cause [CRITICA 24 Aug]	41
Considering Diplomatic Break [Panama City Radio]	42
SNI Attacks Government [AFP]	42
Noriega Adviser Comments on New Government [ACAN]	43
Duque Does Not Rule Out Military Government [AFP]	43
Junta Could Replace Solis [AFP]	44
'People's Power' Seen as National Solution [CRITICA 24 Aug]	45
More Suggestions on New Government Noted [Panama City TV]	45

No Power Vacuum Apparent [Panama City Radio]	46
Closure of Opposition Newspapers Ordered [Panama City TV]	46
Communique Issued [LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 26 Aug]	46
PPAA Calls on Parties To Meet 28 Aug [LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 27 Aug]	47
Noriega Levels Charges Against Businessmen [ACAN]	47
Dignity Battalions To Protect Institutions [Panama City TV]	47
Provocateurs Arrested in Arraijan District [MATUTINO 24 Aug]	48
Controversy Surrounds Selection of Administrator	48
Canal Candidate on Situation [ACAN]	48
Solis Scores Obstacles [LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 27 Aug]	49
Church Decries Campaign Against Official [PANORAMA CATOLICO 20 Aug]	49
Solis Palma Calls for Diversified Market [Panama City Radio]	49

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Cavallo on Falklands, Menem's Visit to Brazil [TELAM]	51
More Comments on Falklands [NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]	51
Views 'Protective Umbrella' [Buenos Aires Radio]	51
President's Brother Comments on London Visit [TELAM]	51
Luder Confirms Amnesty for Indicted Officers [NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]	52
Menem on Military Amnesty, Drugs, Brazil Visit [NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]	52
Political Groups React to Military Amnesty [DYN]	53
Israeli Deputy Minister Levi Visits 25 Aug [TELAM]	53
Military Weapons Seized; Smugglers Arrested [DYN]	54

Chile

Soviet Ships Sighted in National Waters [Santiago Radio]	54
Aylwin Criticizes Pinochet's Armed Forces Address [Santiago Radio]	54
Buchi Turns Down Opposition Challenge [Santiago Radio]	55
Police Injure Students During Buchi's Visit [Santiago Radio]	55
Bomb Attack on Mormon Church in Osorno Reported [Santiago Radio]	55
FPMR Pamphlets Found [Santiago Radio]	56
CNI Says Dead Terrorist Teitelboim's Stepson [Santiago Radio]	56
Officer Sentenced for Killing, Burning Youths [Santiago Radio]	56
Navy Reportedly Negotiating for French Torpedoes [Madrid EFE]	56
Brazilian Embassy Asks for Police Reinforcements [Santiago Radio]	57
Scientific Cooperation Pact Signed With Haiti [Santiago Radio]	57
Nuclear Commission Denies Building Plant [Santiago Radio]	57
Restrictions on Electricity Consumption Lifted [Santiago Radio]	57

Colombia

Justice Minister De Greiff Reportedly Resigns [Buenos Aires REUTER]	57
Resignation 'Unofficially Confirmed' [Bogota TV]	58
Assassination Plot Uncovered [Buenos Aires REUTER]	58
Resignation, Cabinet Crisis Denied [AFP]	58
Judicial Branch Employees Plan Mass Resignations [Bogota TV]	59
Ministry Official To Meet Judges [Bogota TV]	59
Barco Vows To Struggle Against Drug Trafficking [Madrid EFE]	59
Various Groups React to Speech [Bogota TV]	60
Action Taken on Drug Trafficking Suspects Reported [Bogota TV]	60
Cartel Properties Raided [Bogota TV]	61
Medellin Mayor Offers Talks [Buenos Aires REUTER]	62
Government 'Doubts' Guerrilla Peace Commitment [Bogota TV]	62
Gacha Finance Chief Reportedly Arrested [Buenos Aires REUTER]	62
Bombs Explode in 7 Bank Branches in Medellin [AFP]	63
Nine Explosions Reported [Bogota TV]	63

Ecuador

Minister on Possible Presence of Drug Traffickers	[Hamburg DPA]	63
---	---------------	----

Paraguay

Rodriguez Allows SEAS Members To Remain	[HOY 26 Aug]	64
Honduras Refuses Extradition of Montanaro	[Madrid EFE]	64
Arrest of Stroessner's Son Requested in Brazil	[ABC COLOR 26 Aug]	64
Congressional Committee To Investigate Incident	[ABC COLOR 24 Aug]	65
Government Ratifies Human Rights Convention	[ULTIMA HORA 25 Aug]	65
Chamber of Deputies Repeals 'Repressive' Laws	[ULTIMA HORA 25 Aug]	65

Peru

U.S. Urged To Increase Internal Drug Fight	[Madrid EFE]	66
Police Doubt Colombians' Presence in Jungle	[Madrid EFE]	66
New Fishing Contract Signed With USSR	[EXPRESO 18 Aug]	66
Justice Minister Delgado Resigns 26 Aug	[Lima TV]	66
Efrain Obregoso Named New Education Minister	[Madrid EFE]	67
List of Lima Mayoral Candidates Released	[LA REPUBLICA 15 Aug]	67
Nuclear Center Dedicates New Laboratory	[EL COMERCIO 21 Aug]	67

Venezuela

Perez Reportedly Planning Cabinet Reshuffle	[Madrid EFE]	67
Replaces 6 Ministers	[Hamburg DPA]	68
Appoints 7 New Ministers	[Madrid EFE]	69
Issues Decree 423	[Caracas TV]	69
Issues Decree 424	[Caracas TV]	69
Possible Break in Panamanian Relations Reported	[Hamburg DPA]	70
New Minister Calls Panama 'Priority Issue'	[AFP]	70
Further Report on Comments	[Hamburg DPA]	70
New Group To Fight Government Corruption	[AFP]	71
* Inflation Rate Calculated at 57.6 Percent	[EL NACIONAL 5 Jul]	71

Cuba

Abrantes, Other MININT Officers Admit Guilt

FL2608114989 Havana Radio Reloj Network
in Spanish 1032 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Text] The second session of the oral hearing of Case No 2 of 1989 of the charges filed by the Special Military Tribunal has ended with the appearance of the seven accused and their defense attorneys before the Ministry of the Prosecution.

After answering questions from his defense attorney, former Cuban Interior Minister Jose Abrantes Fernandez made a statement to the tribunal in which he admitted his responsibility for the errors and crimes of which he is accused, for the regrettable damage inflicted upon the prestige and image of the institution, and for his negligence in conducting investigations and in conveying relevant information that should have been made known immediately to the highest leaders of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and the government.

Defendant Abrantes Fernandez said he felt shame and regret over the events that constitute disloyalty to the leaders of the revolution. It was demonstrated during the hearing that serious defects existed in the heart of the Interior Ministry [MININT], which are counter to the history and principles of the Cuban revolution.

Defendant Pascual Martinez Gil also made a similar statement in reference to the crimes of which he is accused.

Both of the accused stressed their willingness to fulfill the sanctions handed down by the tribunal and to once again win the confidence and respect of the commander in chief, the minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, the PCC, and the people.

The accused Oscar Carreno Gomez, Manuel Gil Castellanos, Rolando Castaneda Izquierdo, Roberto Gonzalez Caso, and Hector Carbonell also freely and voluntarily made similar statements admitting their responsibility for the crimes of which they are accused by the Ministry of the Prosecution. In some cases, the accused provided the tribunal with further details, clarifications, and allegations.

Witnesses began giving testimony last night, including Division General Manuel Fernandez Crespo [rank as heard], Brigadier Generals Alejandro Ronda Marrero and Jose Galvan Garcia, and Lieutenant Colonel Mario Cuba Pena, who are all from the Interior Ministry.

The third session of the oral hearing of Case No 2 of 1989 of the Special Military Tribunal will continue today.

U.S. 'Interventionism' in Central America Viewed

FL2608024189 Havana Radio Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] The United States has always tried to hide its blame in the Central American conflict. This is an old way of hiding its interventionist policy in that, or any other, region of the world. Now, however, when it comes to Central America, Washington has run out of all its pharisaical masks.

On Wednesday [23 August], Mr Bush categorically reiterated he opposes the dismantling of the Nicaraguan contras based in Honduras prior to the elections in Nicaragua. His statement is truly cynical and shameless. Not only does his statement show that the United States is the main obstacle to peace in that area, but it also shows that the government of that country feels it has the right to assume the role of continental police. In addition to showing a kind of interventionism that in no way takes second place to the big stick policy Bush's statement virtually ignores the agreement reached by five Latin American heads of state—that is to say, the ones from Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Guatemala. Furthermore, his statement ignores the agreement reached between the 21 Nicaraguan opposition parties and the Sandinist government.

Frankly, the United States does not often use such pharisaical and perverse language. But, what is Washington's argument for assuming a position to which it does not have the right? The U.S. Government alludes to eventual fraudulent elections in Nicaragua. All that is merely a farce, and Washington knows it. Furthermore, a UN mission is currently established in Nicaragua to supervise those elections.

What Bush is trying to do is to keep the contras intact, should the Sandinists win the elections. In that case, it would be very easy to call the elections fraudulent—as he is already insinuating—and to continue supporting a war that has claimed 50,000 lives, produced enormous material losses, and caused lasting psychological traumas. Will Central America continue to allow deaths, its large share of suffering, and the high number of (?missing persons) while the United States looks on from over the fence? From what we can see, this is gradually becoming less possible, even if the United States does not want to face the facts.

Government Reacts to Political Events in Poland

Havana Notes New Prime Minister

FL2508150989 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Poland began a new chapter in history when its Parliament named a noncommunist as its prime minister, an unprecedented event in socialist countries.

The recently-installed chief of government, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, said that his government will be open to all the political forces in Poland. The Polish prime minister said his country will continue to be part of the socialist community and the Warsaw Pact. He expressed the hope that when the Cabinet is named, the problems that emerged from Solidarity's attempts to exclude the Polish United Workers Party from the executive branch will have been overcome.

Solidarity 'Imposing' Interests

*FL2608182489 Havana Radio Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Aug 89*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Newspaper polls conducted in Warsaw indicate that only 48 hours from Tadeusz Mazowiecki's nomination as prime minister from among the ranks of the opposition organization Solidarity, the Polish population shows indifference to this event and feels that there are no possibilities for economic improvement.

The majority of those polled have reservations about the [word indistinct] and efficiency of the new government. It is paradoxical, however, that during last June's parliamentary elections in which almost (?66) percent of the population voted, 89 percent of the voters cast their ballots for the Solidarity candidates.

The results of that poll are objective because the strikes that have occurred during the past few weeks in Poland have gotten away from Solidarity's political maneuvering to the extent that Lech Walesa is now asking for a 6-month to 1-year truce to create a certain amount of stability for his advisor, who is now prime minister. Walesa even said today that Mazowiecki will have to take measures that many people may not like; but, in reality, he will do everything possible to succeed. This includes lifting the strikes that he called for and [words indistinct] just a few weeks ago.

Observers say that many things have happened since the June elections. At least the less-favored Polish population is coming to the conclusion that a new type of government is not the solution to Polish problems. Mazowiecki at least has made it clear that he will continue to increase Poland's debt. Poland's foreign debt is already close to \$40 billion.

The new prime minister is basing his economic program on getting new credits from the West for the purpose of flooding the market with consumer goods to thus promote dreams of prosperity. This does not mean that he wants to create or can create development that will eliminate the debt and bring the country out of the economic crisis.

This is how Solidarity is imposing its political interests upon the country. Above all, Solidarity is keeping in mind the direct presidential elections that will be held within the next few months.

Panamanian Envoy on OAS Meeting, U.S. Actions

*FL2508172889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1147 GMT 25 Aug 89*

[“Exclusive” interview with Manuel Orestes Nieto, Panamanian ambassador to Cuba, by reporter Roberto Agudo aired during “Morning Magazine” program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Agudo] Hello, comrades. As you know, Panama continues to be the center of world political news. Thus, this subject is even more relevant if we consider that the OAS Foreign Ministers Consultative Meeting held in Washington just ended a few hours ago. We thought it was appropriate to learn details, expand on the matter, and get ideas by chatting with Mr Manuel Orestes Nieto, Panamanian ambassador to Cuba. Mr Ambassador, we would like to ask you to assess the meeting that just ended in Washington.

[Nieto] We view the recently-concluded 21st OAS Foreign Ministers Consultative Meeting, which examined Panama's case, as a rejection of the intentions of the United States of America to isolate our country within the Latin American group. In general terms, the thought that prevailed was that a will for the interventionist policies of colonialist hegemony on American soil is not as easy to carry out as in previous decades.

Foreign Minister Londono, when he made the closing remarks of the meeting, also established that the Panamanian people, based on the concepts of self-determination and sovereignty, are the ones to find the solution to their domestic political crisis without a deliberate foreign interference inasmuch as this is the core of the Panamanian political crisis at this time.

[Agudo] Mr Ambassador, could it be believed that there might be future contacts with the OAS? This is a double question. Is the formula of a national unity government maintained?

[Nieto] As far as the OAS is concerned, the statement made by the chairman of the 21st consultative meeting notes that if the parties, the national parties, asked for OAS mediation, the organization will always be open to continuing to fulfill its mediation role. I believe we, the national government and the Defense Forces, have made an extraordinary effort to favor domestic dialogue for the solution of our political crisis. I believe this determination will not end. I believe that our greatest will lies in finding domestic formulas aimed at a solution. Therefore, they cannot be separated from the patriotic nature of the Panamanian nation, from its national decolonialization process in the fulfillment of the Panama Canal treaties, and from a 2-year-long general crisis during which the Panamanian people have suffered the effects of a big economic and financial blockade and a large-scale military aggression.

That is, the Panamanian problem is not only going through the discussions of democratic formulas but it

must be understood that we are experiencing in our country a historic process of national independence, decolonization, preserving sovereignty, territorial integrity, and military withdrawal from our territory of a foreign power such as the United States. Considering all these factors, we believe in dialogue, in a national dialogue that is gearing the Panamanian nation toward a solution, in that political direction.

[Agudo] Comrade Ambassador Nieto, we would like to ask you now that you talk to us a little about the priorities, and especially, the demands of the Panamanian people.

[Nieto] Panama is a country that has been invaded. There has been talk here of a possible invasion of Panama. One has to imagine that our country has occupation troops of almost 19,000 U.S. soldiers. As it has been known, over the last few months, their offensive attitude has reached incredible extremes in belittling our people. What our people want is an end to this madness, that life in the country return to normal. This situation was created artificially and only sustained by brute force, only sustained by the imagination of a phantom government that brought in economic measures that were disastrous for our population. Our people want to build their nation. This nation is going through its decolonization and the integrity of national independence. We believe that it is very important for this to be understood, that there will not be a whole nation in Panama until it completes its general independence process. This will happen with the elimination of the colony that was installed in our country. I believe this is the greatest aspiration in order to become a nation, a people, a country. During the current situation when an imbalance of brute force exists on our country, we need to go back to civilized normal levels and coexistence between our nations.

[Agudo] Nieto, I would like to dwell on part of your last response, on U.S. troops remaining in Panama. Why do the Panamanian people insist so much on this matter of additional troops?

[Nieto] The Panama Canal Treaties authorize a precise number of military troops in joint defense areas of the Panama Canal. What the United States has done since last year is to considerably increase the number of authorized troops and place them at the service of the structure that is called U.S. Army South Command. By the way, this structure is not contemplated in the terms of the Panama Canal Treaties. What this increase of troops does is bring tension and threaten the peaceful development of life on the banks of the Panama Canal. In addition to this, those troops conduct various operations repeatedly and permanently outside of the defense areas of the military bases.

This typically constitutes a type of attack of a foreign army in another country's territory, in this case Panama. Therefore, its presence is not only illegitimate but it is also dangerous in military terms. It is arbitrary and violates the Panama Canal Treaties. It also must be

added that this military presence in Panama does not only threaten our sovereignty but is contained within a very important Latin American and, mainly, Central American regional geopolitical context because all types of logistic and military aid is given from these military bases to Honduras and El Salvador for the general U.S. domination policy in the Latin American region.

[Agudo] Comrade Nieto, approximately 24 hours ago, General Noriega spoke with journalists in Panama. He talked about the truly foolish programmed individuals. He was referring to the heads of this Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADOC]. We would like you to explain to the Cuban people, if possible, some of the traits of ADOC's main leaders such as Endara, Arias Calderon, and Ford.

[Nieto] Gen Noriega was referring to the lack of political realism of opposition sectors that form the ADOC. This means that during the domestic negotiation process they were offered to share a government of national unity in order to solve the crisis. They were offered exactly half of all the government structures. With all their economic power representing the large domestic financial interests in the country and openly and clearly supported by the United States, they have to be truly foolish not to be able to understand that there was a political approach that could satisfy their interests. The regrettable thing is that their interests are not in agreement with the interests of the Panamanian people.

What is happening in Panama is that there is an oligarchic and imperialist alliance. These men have raised their finger and proposed a class formula so that the country can be handed over once more to a docile government the United States needs for the continuation of its military presence in Panama through the elimination of the Panama Canal Treaties and the signing of a military pact to make legitimate the U.S. military presence on our territory beyond the year 2000.

[Agudo] We have had the chance to talk with Comrade Manuel Orestes Nieto, Panamanian ambassador to Cuba. We have expanded on the information on the OAS foreign ministers meeting, the true demands of the Panamanian people, their way of thinking, and the future. Comrade Ambassador, we thank you for your kindness in granting this interview for "Morning Magazine."

Delegation Attending Panamanian Workers Congress

FL2608125389 Havana Radio Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1043 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Report by correspondent Nelson Notario Castro from Panama City on "Haciendo Radio" program—live]

[Text] In view of the threats of aggression, the National Federation of Panamanian Workers [CNTP] agreed during its ninth congress, which ends on Saturday, to promote two basic tasks: the unification of the workers movement throughout the country and the defense of the fatherland.

To attain this, the CNTP will strive for the massive enrollment of its members into the Dignity Battalions, create defense commissions in each work center, and support the military training of peasants on their own lands so that they do not have to leave their homes to learn to use weapons and, above all, so that they know what to do in case of a Yankee attack against Panama.

Several delegations from Latin American countries, including Cuba, have participated in the Ninth CNTP Congress. It is expected that a Latin American trade union meeting of solidarity with Panama will be held here tomorrow, Sunday. It will be sponsored by the People's United Front and will have the support of the CPUSTAL, Permanent Congress for Latin American Workers Trade Union Unity.

The CPUSTAL representative in Panama, Comrade Fernandez Pena, told our news services that tomorrow's meeting of solidarity will be an expression of moral support for the isthmian nation, which is being attacked economically and threatened militarily by the Yankee imperialists.

DPRK President Sends Condolences to Castro

*FL2508143289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Aug 89*

[Text] Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] and president of the DPRK, has sent a message to Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and president of the Council of State of the Republic of Cuba. The note sent by the Korean leader to Fidel expresses his condolences for the train accident which occurred recently in Guantanamo.

The text of the message says: On behalf of the WPK Central Committee, the DPRK Government, the Korean people, and my own, I express deep condolences to you and, through you, to the families of those who died and sincerely hope that those injured will recover soon.

Peace Group Demands S. Korean Student's Release

*FL2508133889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Aug 89*

[Text] The Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of Peoples has issued a message in which it demands the immediate release of the South Korean student leader, Yim Su-kyong, and Pastor Mun Kyu-hyon who were arrested in South Korea after having crossed the line which artificially divides the Asian nation.

The document, which is addressed to the Korean National Committee for the Defense of Peace, notes that the two participated in the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students which was held in Pyongyang. The South Koreans are accused of violating supposed security laws of the lackey regime of Yankee imperialism. In this sense, the Cuban organization demands the respect for the lives and rights of the two Asian citizens.

DPRK Sports Official Makes Stopover Visit

*FL2508184689 Havana Radio Progreso Network
in Spanish 2330 GMT 24 Aug 89*

[Text] A DPRK delegation arrived in Cuba today on a stopover visit. The delegation is headed by Kim Yu-sun, chairman of the Korean Physical Culture and Sports Guidance Committee, head of the DPRK national olympic committee, and member of the International Olympic Committee [IOC].

On Saturday [26 August], the Korean delegation will continue its trip to San Juan, Puerto Rico, where it will participate in the 95th IOC meeting that will begin next week.

Balaguer Welcomes Back 200 'Internationalists'

*FL2608153789 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1300 GMT 26 Aug 89*

[Excerpts] Two hundred internationalist combatants have returned to our country on two flights from the People's Republic of Angola. Upon arriving in the fatherland, the Cuban combatants were received by Jose Ramon Balaguer, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba; Brigadier General (Antonio Buson); and other leaders from political and mass organizations. [passage omitted]

The internationalists will soon be reincorporated into the country's daily life and they will be able to tell their families and friends about the beautiful experience of fighting for other peoples. [passage omitted]

Ship Returns From Angola With Weapons

*FL2508155689 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Aug 89*

[Text] The ship "Ruben Martinez Villena" has arrived in Cuba from the People's Republic of Angola with weapons and military technology belonging to Cuban internationalist units.

Division General Ramon Pardo Guerra, chief of the Western Army, headed the group of officials that greeted and congratulated the crew and combatants, who guaranteed the ship's safe return. In a brief meeting with the ship's officers, Pardo Guerra stressed the work done in transporting the technology in Angola, the project of returning it to the fatherland, and, in conclusion, the details involved in unloading the equipment, which will be an important source of support to our economy and defense.

Ammunition, floating bridges, transport vehicles, artillery, and different kinds of weapons are included among the combat equipment. Some of this equipment, which was used in several battles in Angola, will need some repairs. It will then be turned over to the Western, Central, and Eastern Armies, as well as the Anti-aircraft Defense and Revolutionary Air Force. Representatives of these commands were included in the security organ

that received the designated technology. [video shows tanks being unloaded from ship]

Weapons Unloaded

*FL2608184389 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Aug 89*

[Text] Unloading of the Soviet ship that sailed from the People's Republic of Angola with weapons and combat equipment belonging to Cuban internationalists has finished in record time in a port in Santiago de Cuba. [video shows tanks being driven down ramps from ship].

Present during the unloading of the ship in the bay of Santiago de Cuba were Division General Ramon Espinosa Martin, hero of the Republic of Cuba, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], and chief of the Eastern Army; Ostorio Fong, second secretary of the PCC in Santiago de Cuba; and chiefs and officers of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] and the Interior Ministry [MININT].

The combative willingness and the training of the forces created for this task in Santiago were evident during the process of unloading the ship. FAR and MININT combatants and railway workers and truck drivers of the country's eastern region also participated in the operation.

Annual Trade Agreement With Nicaragua Renewed

*FL2608140089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1300 GMT 26 Aug 89*

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government has renewed the annual trade agreement that it has had with Cuba for the past 8 years. According to official sources, this agreement makes possible mutually beneficial trade between the two countries. The trade protocol is valued at more than \$26 million. Industries in Cuba and Nicaragua can seek new ways to increase bilateral trade, even though their economies are being blockaded by the United States.

Commentary Sees Indifference to Colombian Events

*PA2608125989 Havana International Service
in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Aug 89*

["Our America" commentary read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] The full scope of the wave of violence and death that has swamped Colombia over the past several years is now beginning to be assessed. Latin America and other parts of the world have remained on the sidelines of that South American country's domestic strife, where human life is almost worthless. Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez hit the nail on the head when he told Colombian Radio Caracol that we may not be doing what we must concerning current developments in Colombia. Carlos Andres Perez is concerned that some nations may be getting used to living in a climate of collective intimidation.

Daily events occur in Colombia amid a climate of national uncertainty. Bands of drug traffickers have built an empire of dirty money and bloodthirsty mafias in deathly complicity with the military deployment of 140 paramilitary groups. Years ago, when these groups announced their guns were aimed at progressive and leftist personalities, they operated with the unspoken complicity of many sectors, including the government. However, for some time now, the murder victims have been leftists, Liberals, Conservatives, and even politically independent persons who oppose the chaos created by drug traffickers, landowners, some officers, and paramilitary groups. Luis Carlos Galan, 46, presidential hopeful, Liberal senator, lawyer, and newsman is the latest victim of this deathly spiral. His remains [29-second break in reception] Luis Carlos Galan. Drug traffickers have shown their hit list is neverending. They also bring to the fore the power and scope of the dirty war these people began in the country amid the government's inaction.

Many wonder how the paramilitary top command can go unpunished, considering that its chief leaders have been identified, because more often than not the killers do very little to cover their tracks. Looking ahead, the Colombian electoral process that will conclude in next year's elections has been dealt a heavy blow with Galan's murder. The remaining presidential candidates will have to conduct their political campaign surrounded by armies of bodyguards, an arrangement widely used in Colombia by politicians, labor leaders, judges, artists, and minor officials. Perplexity over what happened in Colombia is one of the initial reactions in Latin America. Luis Carlos Galan's murder also calls for condemnation. Perhaps in the future it may help make the continent meditate on whether or not it is advisable to be indifferent to the collective intimidation that prevails in Colombia.

Villa Clara Plant Manufactures Parabolic Antennas

*FL2608151189 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1300 GMT 26 Aug 89*

[Text] Villa Clara has the only factory that manufactures antennas in the country. The name of the factory is (Copestel). Workers are now installing a parabolic antenna that will replace the one located at the Jaruco ground station in Havana. This antenna is 12 meters in size and its components will be used for Intersputnik communications. [video shows installed satellite dish and others in manufacturing process]

The factory's manufacturing plan for this year includes 200 Antel parabolic antennas, each measuring 3 meters in size. The prototype of this antenna won a gold medal at the Sixth International Havana Fair in 1988.

The factory's production in general is intended to replace imports and generate income from exports. Its products are currently shipped to the USSR and Hungary, and other agreements have been signed with Bulgaria, Panama, and Spain.

This unit places our island among those few countries that manufacture parabolic antennas. Those other countries are the USSR, United States, England, Japan, and France.

Mariel To Pay Over 200,000 Pesos in Demurrage

*FL2508202189 Havana Radio Progreso Network
in Spanish 2330 GMT 24 Aug 89*

[Text] The Mambisa Terminals Enterprise has reported that up to the present time, the port of Mariel in Havana Province has to pay more than 200,000 pesos in demurrage charges. However, this situation could worsen if the problem of cramming merchandise into the warehouses in that maritime terminal is not solved.

Pedro Prendes, director of the Mariel Mambisa Terminal said that the port piers now hold 41,600 tons of merchandise, which extensively exceeds the port's capacity. Prendes feels the situation could worsen because 19,000 tons of merchandise are on board ships anchored in the port and other ships are expected to arrive.

Women Arrested for Robbery, Currency Trafficking

*FL2508212189 Havana Radio Progreso Network
in Spanish 2330 GMT 25 Aug 89*

[Police report]

[Text] Citizens Gladys Olivera Cabrera and (Norquis Herocio Sabori), both unemployed and residents of 51 and 52 Macedonia Street, between San Anselmo and Buenos Aires Streets, respectively, were detained by combatants of the Third Municipal Unit of the National Revolutionary Police [PNR]. They have been accused of stealing and trafficking in convertible currency.

The two women stole more than \$450 from a briefcase carried by a tourist who was passing by the giant pool in Lenin Park in Boyeros Municipality, Havana City Province. As soon as the victim realized she had been robbed, she notified the police. Agents immediately began an investigation which led to the identification and capture of the accused.

After being taken to the PNR unit, the two women admitted their guilt and from their statements, part of the stolen money was able to be recovered. They had changed the rest of the money for national currency—approximately 300 pesos—which was also confiscated by the authorities and returned to the victim.

The accused are currently being detained [bajo medida cautelar] until they are brought before the judicial organ responsible for the oral hearing and the appropriate sentence.

Antigua and Barbuda

Ministry of Trade, Industry, Commerce Formed

*FL2408032289 Bridgetown CANA in English
1352 GMT 23 Aug 89*

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, Aug 23, CANA—Manufacturers in Antigua and Barbuda say the move to establish a Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Commerce here is recognition by the government of the integral role which the industrial and commercial sectors play in the economy.

Executive Director of the Antigua and Barbuda Manufacturers Association (ABMA), Brian Stuart Young, on Wednesday welcomed the new ministry and said it was necessary since the various sectors need "full time individual" attention.

He said since tourism is Antigua and Barbuda's main foreign exchange earner, it makes good "business sense" to ensure that the other sectors of the economy have the best opportunity to expand and develop alongside tourism. "This can be achieved through the work of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce", Stuart Young said. He stressed that it was also important to improve the linkages between tourism and manufacturing, the commercial and service sectors.

The ABMA executive director described the establishment of the ministry as "very timely" particularly now when the manufacturing sector is experiencing "ups and downs."

He suggested that the country needs to develop strategies to more specifically target investment opportunities for the manufacturing sector.

Barbados

Sandiford Denies Alleged Foreign Reserves Crisis

*FL2408182589 Bridgetown CANA in English
2228 GMT 23 Aug 89*

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Aug 23, CANA—There is no crisis with foreign reserves in Barbados, contrary to what the opposition has been saying, Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford told newsmen here on Wednesday. [23 August]

"The Barbados economy is performing quite satisfactorily and there is certainly no crisis with our foreign reserves...." Sandiford, who is also finance minister, said from his office. However, the prime minister admitted bunched-up debt repayments of loans going back to 1982 have adversely affected the foreign reserves position. "Some of these repayments have already been made this year and would have impacted adversely on the foreign reserves position," he said.

Opposition leader, Dr Richie Haynes, a former finance minister in Sandiford's government, says the reserves

have been exhausted and in the red since June. Haynes has produced confidential central bank documents to back his charge.

Sandiford repeated a recent statement that the opposition had arrived at its conclusion because of "blatant omission" of the government sinking fund holdings of 30.4 million dollars (one Bds dollar : 50 U.S. cents) and government funds of 81.3 million dollars from a Japanese bond issue of 1988. He also restated Monday's [21 August] Central Bank announcement that the country has 315 million dollars in reserves.

"We are able to meet all of our foreign commitments, both in the private and public sectors, whenever they fall due—whether they are in the form of imports of goods and services or repayment of long or short term debt," Sandiford said.

Bahamas

Nation Backs Colombia's Antidrug Efforts

FL2608120089 Bridgetown CANA in English
1705 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Washington, D.C., Aug 14, CANA—The Bahamas Government is supporting Colombia's fight on illegal drug trafficking. "There are lessons to be learned from the recent events in Colombia. We applaud the Colombian president for the bold steps he is taking, but we must show the cartels that he is not alone," Bahamas' Foreign Minister Charles Carter said.

The Colombian Government has stepped up the fight against the traffickers following the killing of a presidential candidate. Carter said that "all of us in this hemisphere" must show the drug dealers they are "part of the war".

The Bahamas wants to host a meeting this year of leaders of the hemisphere to define a comprehensive strategy for waging an all out war on the production, processing, shipment, distribution and use of illegal drugs. Carter told CANA that recent events in Colombia demonstrated the need for a well planned, coordinated and implemented program which would tackle all aspects of the drug problem. He said his country hoped such a summit could be held before the end of this year.

The foreign minister told CANA that his country had indicated to the United States in January a willingness to host the summit but, to date, there was no response from the United States Administration. "We discussed the idea of the summit at the Caricom (Caribbean Community) foreign ministers meeting, the heads of government meeting, at the Organization of American States (OAS) and we informed the United States by diplomatic note in January of our desire to host the meeting but so far the United States has not responded. Whether we would ultimately go ahead with it I'm not sure," Carter explained.

Carter was against using United States troops in Latin America and the Caribbean in the fight against drugs, point out that "the democratic traditions in some of our countries would be threatened if we were to resort to the use of force." He said arrangements such as one between his country and the United States for joint policing could extended to involve other countries in the hemisphere.

The foreign minister said that three quarters of the drugs produced are consumed in North America. "We are not the markets. Countries like the Bahamas, Jamaica, Trinidad, Cuba and Barbados are only used by the drug lords to reach the 3 billion dollar United States market," he remarked. "We aren't really the target and therefore we must focus on the question of demand. And we in Caricom, and specifically in the Bahamas, are ready to be part of the solution to the United States drug problem."

Carter said among the benefits of such a summit would be "a judicial atmosphere" that would let the drug barons, dealers and users "know that they are criminals wherever they are or wherever they go."

Haiti

Avril Stresses Need To Combat Illiteracy

FL2408182089 Port-au-Prince L'UNION in French
No 198, 22-23 Aug 89, p 3

[Speech by General Prosper Avril at inauguration of National Office for Community Education and Literacy, ONECA, on 22 August at Delmas 71]

[Excerpts] People of Haiti: National sovereignty resides in all the citizens of a nation and the population exercises the prerogatives of this sovereignty by electing the president of the Republic, members of the Legislature, and the members of all other corps or assemblies stipulated by the Constitution and the law.

Such is, dear compatriots, under Article 58 of the Constitution, the heavy responsibility falling not to a small group of Haitians but to the entire adult population of Haiti—with each citizen bearing equal responsibility. However, as everyone knows, 80 percent of our citizens are vegetating in the darkest illiteracy. That's why, aware of our duty to the nation and its people, we cried out, last 18 May, that an effort—a national one—had to be made to attack the scourge of illiteracy to get our brothers out of the situation they have been in for (?186) years. However, this cry hardly raised any echoes at all.

Therefore, we have come here this morning to once again draw the Haitian people's attention to this serious problem. We are here to personally inaugurate this newly-created agency that is responsible for teaching people how to read and write, as well as the informal education of our masses, whose condition of illiteracy remains a major handicap to any process of economic development and social progress.

The National Office for Community Education and Literacy ONECA, which follows ONEC, ONAAC, and ONPEP [expansions not provided] involves not merely a change of name but rather a change in concept, involving a realistic and not-too-costly structure that will not only integrate the participation of all citizens of good will in this noble task but will also, while guaranteeing supervision of the action undertaken, base the literacy program on the undertaking of community projects that are at the same time aimed at improving the quality of life of our urban and rural masses. [passage omitted]

As a matter of fact, in this connection, we have a glimmer of hope, generated by the 5 July letter received in our office in which the Liaison Committee of the Democratic Forces, responding to our call, offered us, for no remuneration, its help and the commitment of its cadres in the summer literacy campaign announced in our 18 May message. We were expecting reactions from others, too, in order to go on to the execution phase of the program, but there were none. [passage omitted]

Thus, 1990, which is going to be declared "International Literacy Year," will find our beloved Haiti in the midst of a big cooperative national effort toward community education and literacy, the only means of transforming our worker and peasant masses into economic forces capable of doing away with underdevelopment, strengthening the unity of the Haitian family, and guaranteeing the irreversibility of this democracy that the Haitian people began desiring immediately after 7 February 1986 and that the government of 17 September 1988 has decided to install in Haiti to promote the harmonious and well-balanced development of the Haitian nation in unity, work, and freedom.

May God continue to aid us in everything we undertake for the well-being of the Haitian people.

[Signed] Prosper Avril, Lieutenant General, Haitian Armed Forces, President.

Further on Avril at ONECA

FL2408160589 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] The military government yesterday morning inaugurated the National Office for Community Education and Literacy [ONECA] at Delmas 71. Haitian president General Prosper Avril, the members of the cabinet, and the Army high command attended the ceremony. A member of the government said this represents a step towards democracy.

For as long as anyone can remember, teaching the Haitian masses to read and write has been put on paper and then shoved in a drawer and forgotten. This leads the Haitian people to be somewhat sceptical about ONECA. That's why two government officials and the director of ONECA made prepared speeches to explain the new organization.

Minister of Education Remy Zamor said this inauguration was more than a mere formality. He said it was an in-depth work that reflected the concern of the government, which wants to change the lives of Haitians.

Everyone cheers a government that does good things for him. That's why when Andre Limontas, executive director of ONECA, thanked God, he also thanked the government that has put ONECA's fate into his hands. He added that it was not easy to teach adults to read and write, but that they felt up to the task. Thus, they were asking all national and international sectors to support ONECA.

General Prosper Avril, who spoke last, said ONECA was not merely a change in name but a change in the way the work is to be done.

Guadeloupe Mayor Reacts to Caricom Statement

FL2408183189 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Shortly before returning home yesterday afternoon, Caribbean mayors [visiting Haiti] held a news conference at the Villa Creole Hotel. They reiterated their willingness to offer Haiti technical aid in municipal management. [passage omitted]

Mrs [Lucette Michaud] Chevy said she felt it was important for Haiti to integrate into Caricom [Caribbean Common Market] and the Lome Accord as a way for Haiti to get out of its current isolation. However, she hoped this would not involve imposing upon Haiti conditions for its participation. [passage omitted]

Regarding the Caricom ministers' statement on the coming elections in Haiti, which the delegation said would be in 1990, Mrs Chevy said she felt this constituted meddling in Haitian affairs. She is not in favor of other countries coming and sticking their noses into Haitian affairs. It is essentially a Haitian problem and it is Haitians who must solve their problems.

We remind listeners that the delegation of Caribbean mayors are to leave Haiti today. [passage omitted]

Country's National Presses Close Temporarily

FL2408151089 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] The general directorate of the National Haitian Presses and of the official gazette, LE MONITEUR, informs their kind subscribers and the general public that in agreement with the ministry under which they fall, the National Haitian Presses are stopping operations temporarily in order to be restructured.

However, the official gazette, LE MONITEUR, continues to be printed normally and pending work will be done. The reopening of the National Haitian Presses will be announced later.

Radio Cacique's Newsroom Journalists Strike

*FL2408150189 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale
in Creole 1300 GMT 23 Aug 89*

[Text] Radio Cacique has now been in a state of crisis for more than 2 weeks. The journalists from the radio station's newsroom have stopped work, demanding a wage increase.

Some of the journalists, who asked to remain anonymous, claimed that they had to do their normal work every day as reporters but protested at also being used as ads salesmen.

Just when they were to present their demands, Radio Cacique's general director left Haiti. Radio Cacique authorities, instead of making a decision on the matter, sent around a circular asking the journalists to turn in their tape recorders and Radio Cacique identification cards before noon yesterday, Tuesday, 22 August.

The Radio Cacique journalists quickly understood that they were being fired. The Haitian Journalists Association has made no statement on this matter which could become a big issue.

Radio Cacique's journalists are waiting for the radio's director to return. They think he might be able to solve the current crisis at the Radio Cacique newsroom.

APN Issues Press Release on Arrests of Members

*FL2508143189 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network
in Creole 1100 GMT 24 Aug 89*

[Excerpt] The People's National Assembly [APN] has issued a press release on the arrest of 14 APN members in Champagne, fifth communal section of Le Borgne.

The APN says: Daily, the military government is showing that its role is to protect macoutes and crush people's organizations in order to better defend the interests of foreign governments. [passage omitted]

Jamaica

Joint Commission To Expand Relations Launched

*FL2508174889 Bonaire Trans World in English
1130 GMT 25 Aug 89*

[Text] Jamaica and the Soviet Union have launched a joint commission to expand economic relations between the two countries. David Coore, Jamaica's minister of foreign affairs and foreign trade, says he hopes to build on past achievements. Mr Coore says that Jamaica has signed 12 agreements with the Soviet Union since 1977, including transportation, cultural, and sports accords. Jamaica has exported bauxite and pimientos to the Soviet Union and has imported Soviet cars, trucks, and tractors.

Industry, Commerce Minister's Life Threatened

*FL2408162789 Bridgetown CANA in English
1959 GMT 23 Aug 89*

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Aug 23, CANA—The STAR newspaper in Jamaica claims that a contract worth a quarter million dollars (one J dollar—18 U.S. cents) has been put out for the execution of industry and commerce minister, Claude Clarke. The paper said the police confirmed that a report had been made and that the matter was being dealt with. The newspaper report also quoted police sources as saying that the threat was linked to the minister's crackdown on a motor car racket here. As a result, a major security operation involving a former Army officer, Col. Leslie Lloyd, as well as trained operatives from the Jamaica Defence Force and the police has been mounted, the paper said.

The industry and commerce minister, since taking office earlier this year, has vowed to "smash" a local racket involving the sale and distribution of new motor cars. New cars are often re-sold at high rated prices in a system known as second-sales. Second sales are the result of the shortage in [word indistinct] cars here.

The industry and commerce minister in a recent interview in the SUNDAY GLEANER said that the government was making "significant inroads" into the racket which has earned dealers over 500 million dollars in the last seven years.

Phone System Isolates Nation From Rest of World

*FL2408131789 Bridgetown CANA in English
1559 GMT 23 Aug 89*

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Aug 23, CANA—For the second day in a row, most Jamaica remained cut off from the rest of the world and business crippled as Jamaicans remained unable to make international and in some cases intra-island calls.

The major snag occurred since the introduction of a controversial International Call Authorisation System (ICAS) on Sunday [20 Aug]. ICAS was installed, according to the Jamaica Telephone Telephone Company, (JTC) to put an end to illegal overseas calls which the company said had cost it 55 million dollars annually over the past three years.

Executive director of the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ), Delroy Lindsay, said that as a result of this "Fiasco" the country was losing millions of Jamaican dollars.

A spokesman for West Indies Synthetics, one of the island's largest companies here, in expressing disgust with the new system said that we would be asking the JTC to take his company off the ICAS system as it was proving "impossible". "I would rather take the risk of illegal calls than continue losing business," said another businessman who is an exporter.

Efforts to contact officials at the JTC for an update on the situation were unsuccessful as they were "not in office". But a news release late Monday [21 Aug] said that the problems were caused by a major technical fault in the system and that the company's technicians would be working all night to correct it.

Although the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel in Kingston reported that it was now able to make international calls, many others still could not. Another hotel "Inn on the Beach" on the north coast said that even though they could make overseas calls. The JTC operators could not tell them the cost of the calls so they could bill guests. "The whole system is so frustrating", said the operator who wished to remain anonymous.

Travel agencies have been badly hit as toll-free numbers which were working on Monday, were inoperable Tuesday. The banks, too, have been severely affected as many still cannot make international, and intra-island calls. An official of Century National Bank in Kingston said that his bank had not been able to make contact with the outside world and "things we have to do just cannot get done."

When asked, telephone operations at Jamaica House, where the prime minister's office is located, were unable to say whether they could make international calls.

ICAS is based on a system where each bone-fide customer is allotted a secret 10 digit authorization code which will enable the person to make international calls. Under the new system persons wishing to make overseas calls will have to dial as many as 24 numbers before making a connection. The Carlton Exchange of the JTC in Kingston told CANA that in order for ICAS to work, the 24 digits must be dialed in ten seconds.

Lecturer Forced To Leave Belize by Authorities

*FL2408150389 Bridgetown CANA in English
1636 GMT 23 Aug 89*

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, August 22, CANA—Claremont Kirton, a lecturer in the Department of Economics at the Jamaica Campus of the University of the West [UWI] has been put out of Belize by the authorities, a UWI lecturer has reported. UWI Professor Carl Stone said Kirton, who was in Belize on a research assignment earlier this month, had his passport seized and forced to leave the country. Kirton was said to have been accused by the Belize Government of carrying out "political work" on behalf of the opposition party. The People's United Party [PUP]. Kirton however denied

this, saying that he was only working on a research assignment, sponsored by the UWI's Institute of Social and Economic Research, for the Government of Belize dealing with illegal border crossings into the country from Guatemala and Mexico. Declining to comment further, Kirton said that the vice-chancellor of the University of the West Indies, Alister McIntyre, was investigating the matter.

Sources here said that Kirton was believed to be part of another team being assembled by Professor Stone, to assist the PUP with specialised electoral analysis for the forthcoming elections. Giving the background to the controversy, Professor Stone said that a couple of weeks ago, a member of the People's National Party in Jamaica, Dudley Thompson, had asked him to put together a team of analysts who would be asked to assist the opposition party in Belize with specialised electoral analysis for the forthcoming elections.

Professor Stone said he was unable to go but he tried to find two "experienced and capable" persons who would be able to provide the type of service being requested. The team would also organise a quick opinion poll to determine the current political balance in the country.

As the elections were only a few weeks away, the project had to be abandoned because Dr. Stone was unable to find anyone who knew the country well enough and who had the requisite analytical skills in voting and electoral matters and who was available. Professor Stone said he understood that Kirton was called in and his passport seized and "chased out of the country" because the Belize Government thought he was part of the team that he was assembling.

"Kirton knew nothing of my conversations with Mr. Thompson nor was he considered a member of the team", Dr. Stone said. Stone said he was concerned about the "hostility of the Belize Government" to his project which involved straightforward consultancy work, using his skills as a researcher and electoral analyst.

Stone said that had he gone to Belize or had he sent the team of two as proposed then they would have either been locked up or deported. He described the action as a fundamental breach of traditions and practices that are integral to democratic government and academic freedom. He said that he has written to Jamaican opposition leader Edward Seaga, who is also chairman of the Caribbean Democrat Union to which the ruling party in Belize belongs, and to Jamaica Prime Minister Michael Manpey seeking their intervention.

Costa Rica

Church Mediating To End Strike in Limon

PA2308040189 Paris AFP in Spanish 2352 GMT
22 Aug 89

[Text] San Jose, 22 Aug (AFP)— A strike that has paralyzed the Port of Limon in Costa Rica's Atlantic region since Sunday at midnight today extended to schools, hospitals, the oil refinery, and other public agencies as well as some private enterprises.

The strike threatens to become the largest pressure movement since the Social Democratic government headed by President Oscar Arias was inaugurated in May 1986. It is promoted by the so-called Permanent Council for Study and Solution of Limon Problems [Consejo Permanente de Estudio y Solucion de los Problemas de Limon, CPESPL].

The CPESPL, made up of unions and community organizations in the Atlantic region, demands from the Central Government compliance with an extensive list of socioeconomic demands related to health, employment, education, security, and a wide range of problems that have made Limon the country's most backward province. The government's demand that the strike be lifted as a condition to begin the negotiations, and CPESPL's decision to continue it have blocked the possibilities for a negotiated solution to the conflict.

However, a proposal from the Catholic Church and other religious leaders in the region who have mediated in the conflict was described as "positive" by the strikers and is being analyzed by the government.

Although they admitted that "most of the demands are justified, the mediators said that some of them are beyond the government's real possibilities. [quotation marks as received]

The mediators also asked the government to begin the dialogue without demanding that the strike be lifted, which could be suspended 12 hours after the talks begin.

The government, which today received the support of the country's main business organizations, has admitted that there are problems in the Atlantic region that require urgent solutions.

However, it has accused the leaders of trying to "politicize" the movement with excessive demands to obtain an electoral advantage in the upcoming February elections.

Despite the current tension in the Atlantic region, there has been no violence. However, the police have doubled security at the docks, power facilities, railroads, the Costa Rican Oil Refinery (RECOPE), and other strategic points.

RECOPE, a state-run enterprise that monopolizes the production and distribution of oil by-products has

assured that it has enough reserves to guarantee the country's fuel supplies for 1 month.

Meanwhile, the Labor Court in Limon declared the strike conducted by workers of the Atlantic Coast Port Administration and Economic Development Board [Junta de Administracion Portuaria y Desarrollo Economico de la Vertiente Atlantica] illegal. This decision must be ratified by a higher court before that public agency can dismiss workers without any responsibility.

The government has requested that strikes in other government agencies also be declared illegal.

However, Adalberto Fonseca, a union leader in the area, has said that "the strike will continue and we will only negotiate as a strike movement." He played down the court's decision, stating that in Costa Rica "strikes have never been legal."

El Salvador

President Alfredo Cristiani Interviewed 24 Aug

PA2508125689 San Salvador TCS Television
in Spanish 1310 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Interview with President Alfredo Cristiani by Lorena Koberg and Ricardo Rivas—live]

[Text] [Rivas] Dear viewers, on our 2d anniversary we now present you the president of the Republic, Alfredo Cristiani Burkard. Good morning, Mr President.

[Koberg] Good morning, Mr President.

[Cristiani] Good morning, Lorena, good morning, Ricardo. Allow me to voice our sincere congratulations on the 2d anniversary of your program. I think this program has brought a great deal of information to the Salvadoran people. Congratulations.

[Rivas] Thank you. Mr President, some observers feel that Nicaraguan President Ortega was the big winner at the Central American summit. Others feel you obtained your first international victory, particularly if we view the results from an immediate point of view. What do you personally think of the meeting?

[Cristiani] I think it is difficult to try to separate the Tela agreement from the Esquipulas II process. In the case of Nicaragua, we must recall that the demobilization of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] was approved last February in Costa del Sol. It was approved that this would be a voluntary demobilization by the RN members and their relatives. On this occasion, all we had to do was to approve the mechanism, if you would, of how we could offer a formula that would allow the RN to rejoin society. There was a 90-day term from the signing of the Costa del Sol agreement to present this regulation. For certain reasons the summit was delayed, and it was not until August when a regulation to this effect was approved.

In the case of El Salvador, as members of the government we had the responsibility of including the Salvadoran issue at the meeting of the Central American presidents. I feel the Salvadoran issue has a regional impact, not just an impact inside El Salvador. We also decided to bring up this concern to the presidents. I believe we had the support of the presidents in the sense that a very definite democratic process is under way in El Salvador, and the five presidents have categorically supported this.

On the other hand, a very vehement call has been made to the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] for the first time. The FMLN has been told that there is no justification for the armed struggle in El Salvador and that it must cease hostilities. The Tela agreement specifies there must be a cease-fire prior to beginning the dialogue.

I feel that, far from trying to consider this as anyone's personal victory, it must be considered as an effort in the search for peace in our country. To this effect we must not stop to see who will take all the credit. Instead, we must all see what the efforts being made by the presidents are. We must try to pick up those initiatives in the search for peace in El Salvador, and everyone must unite in this search for peace. I believe this should be the spirit of the Tela Agreement. We have seen how the FMLN members seem to be claiming this as a great victory for them. If they consider this a great victory, then they should cooperate now with the Salvadoran people and cease hostilities. This would be a good demonstration by the FMLN that they actually agree with what was proposed by the presidents.

To that effect, I believe we must view it from various points of view: First, we must view it within the context of a process, and not an isolated situation within that process. Second, this is the first time that the Salvadoran issue has been given a prominent stand.

[Rivas] As you will understand, there are many things the press is not aware of. I would like to ask you how you personally feel about the attitudes of the Central American presidents, particularly President Ortega, concerning the fulfillment of the agreements of this meeting.

[Cristiani] I would say that Guatemala, Honduras, and Costa Rica fully supported the Salvadoran stand. President Ortega hesitated somewhat. Naturally he had thought that the agreement would include something concerning the RN. Perhaps it was somewhat difficult to convince President Ortega that El Salvador could not be left out and that this process was not strictly for solving the Nicaraguan problem. Rather, this was a regional effort and we had to find solutions to all of the problems in the region. The Salvadoran problem is perhaps one of the most urgent ones.

I feel that we have gained a commitment that will make it more difficult for him not to comply. That commitment was even part of the initial Esquipulas II agreement, and it is the one that specifies nations must not

provide assistance or allow their territories to be used by the armed groups in the various countries of the region.

As the other presidents who had already participated in the efforts noted, this is the first time that President Ortega officially admitted that he has, in fact, been helping the FMLN. This makes it evident that the FMLN, as well as the RN, are receiving support from abroad, and it is not true that it is a movement merely using internal resources.

On the other hand, the fact that it was expressed in this manner will make the presidents more aware that Ortega has not been complying with this agreement, and they will be more watchful concerning specific compliance with the agreement.

To that effect, I personally have some doubts that President Ortega will comply, because he has shown in the past he does not comply with something that is not convenient for him. I do believe that it will be more difficult not to comply this time. The eyes of the rest of Central America and of the entire world were on him when he agreed to this.

[Koberg] President Cristiani, I have two questions: First, if President Ortega were not to comply, would this have any repercussions on the demobilization of the contras? My second question is: What are your goals as to the forthcoming summit that will be held in December?

[Cristiani] I believe the International Support and Verification Commission [CIAV] will have to come to Central America. We are getting ready. We are closely following Nicaragua's compliance with the agreements concerning the aid it provides to the FMLN. Obviously, the Central American presidents cannot agree on mandates. We can only make suggestions and we can only trust that our political resolve makes us abide by the agreements.

We believe that President Ortega would face many problems if he does not comply with the agreements. He would have a lot of trouble proving to the world that he is indeed conducting a democratic process—as he has stated—that he wants to open up democracy, and that he does not want to destabilize other countries. Noncompliance with the agreements would bring serious problems to Nicaragua.

Obviously, by December, when we meet again, we will have had enough time to verify fulfillment of the agreements. We will make a statement at that meeting if the agreements are not complied with. I believe noncompliance with the agreements would even bring domestic problems for Nicaragua. Nicaragua's noncompliance with the agreements and its attempt to make the other Central American countries abide by the treaties in all matters dealing with Nicaragua would bring problems for Nicaragua. I would even say that the United States could reconsider its decision to reduce its aid for the RN. The United States could do that, because there would be

evidence that Ortega does not abide by the agreements without the threat the RN represents.

We will hold a meeting in Nicaragua in December. At that time, we will fully verify fulfillment of the agreements. We will hear a CIAV report concerning the voluntary demobilization of the RN. At that meeting, we will also discuss compliance with the remaining agreements.

[Koberg] There is a lot of speculation concerning the Salvadoran peace process. There is a great deal of speculation concerning the members of the government commission that will hold talks with the FMLN. It has been said that there are two commissions. It has also been said that there is only one commission and several subcommissions. In addition, the FMLN has requested the inclusion of Salvadoran Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas in the government commission. The FMLN has also stated that the people who would probably be part of the government commission lack authority. The FMLN has requested the presence of foreign witnesses in the dialogue. We would like you to give us details on the formation of the government commission and on the way you expect that commission to work.

[Cristiani] We have always believed that when a government appoints a person to represent it, that person has the authority the government has granted him. In our case, we believe the achievement of peace is everyone's task. We want to grant sufficiently ample authority to the government representatives so that all the achievements obtained in the dialogue are endorsed by many groups. In that way, all those groups would take part in the entire dialogue process and we would have a united view in the dialogue.

At first, we wanted the government delegation to have wide ideological representation. The opposition conducted unfounded attacks against our intention. In fact, we noticed inconsistency in the opposition's stance, because at first they said it was not advisable to have wide ideological representation in the government delegation. They said it was not a good idea to have a government delegation comprised of people who represent the various political currents. Now, however, we have heard someone say that the country's political parties want to be represented in the government delegation. In our opinion, there has been some inconsistency. We have always stated that we want the dialogue to be effective. We have been flexible enough so as to take note of everyone's concerns to make the dialogue process bear fruit. By no means do we want to play with the Salvadoran people's yearning for peace or give them false hopes. We want to provide a firm basis for the dialogue process so that it works.

To promote a way to make the FMLN come to the talks seriously without using the talks as a strategy, we will even include in the government commission some of the people the FMLN has suggested. To have wide representation in the government commission, as well as direct

government representation—when we talk about government representation many people think the government has to be represented by government officials—we decided to appoint an independent delegate representing the Presidency along with two ministers.

We have been holding talks with the Legislative Assembly and the Supreme Court of Justice to study the possibility of having these two institutions appoint someone who will not necessarily represent them and be their spokesmen. From the beginning of the process, we want these institutions—which together make up the government of the Republic—to participate and be aware of what is happening in the peace and dialogue process once it has begun.

Concerning other sectors, we believe there have been various viewpoints on whether the Armed Forces, the Catholic Church, and the San Salvador Archbishop should participate. We believe that this a political commission and will be discussing strictly political matters. In this sense, the Armed Forces are not a political organization, but part of the state; they are not separated from the government, but part of the government. Therefore, when there is government representation, all institutions are represented, including the Armed Forces. We do not believe it advisable to have the church represented in political matters, including, in this case, the Catholic Church and the San Salvador archbishop. This does not mean that any of these sectors does not have a role to play.

We have said we should all help in efforts toward peace because this the country's main desire. The Catholic Church and the archbishop will perform their role, but not as members of the commission, because the commission is of a political nature. I believe that, as we have always said, the Legislative Assembly should revive the initiative it announced following the FMLN proposal in January. The assembly should establish a multi-partisan commission so that the government dialogue commission may permanently consult with the political parties represented or not represented at the Legislative Assembly.

In this regard, we seek to get the political parties involved, so that the parties will listen to what is happening and express their viewpoints, and so that the commission can absorb the opinions expressed by the various political trends in the country. We want the political parties to feel like a part of this process. We have repeatedly said we are not interested in exclusivity in this case. We are not seeking victories for us or defeats for others. We want peace. We should all participate. We are all willing to participate. Parties must also be in continuous contact with all other sectors in the country, to then participate in a task that results in national unity in the search for peace. This is our objective. We will give you more details on this in the near future.

[Rivas] Mr President, taking advantage of your presence here, we would like to discuss our television viewers'

points of interest. This is why we will now change the subject and move on to national politics. During the political campaign, you harshly criticized—you meaning the political party you represent—the Duarte administration for not strengthening our country's internal front and for not reunifying our society. Now, 2 months and 24 days after you were inaugurated, do you think there has actually been progress in this sense?

[Cristiani] Well, Ricardo, this is not an easy process in view of the polarization that has existed in our society. I believe that in some sectors there is much distrust. These are all obstacles that must be overcome, little by little. We have tried to hold talks with various sectors and we have held meetings with the opposition parties. Moreover, with government consent and acceptance, the opposition met in Mexico City with the FMLN. In other words, we have no interest in putting the opposition aside. On the contrary, we want us all to participate in the great national issues, because in the end we will all benefit. We have also held talks with labor union groups about various issues. At this moment we are trying to hold meetings with the various labor sectors as we have already done with the business sector, so that in a detailed manner, in a dialogue, we may review the country's current situation and examine the crisis in all its aspects—social, political, and economic.

We must all look for a solution. This includes the opposition, an opposition the presence of which is evident and which has always existed and will exist. We believe an opposition is healthy for democracy. It is the opposition that must be fully aware of the country's reality and understand how far it should go as an opposition and when it should begin working with the government to find a solution to the country's situation, which we believe is very critical.

We have invited several labor groups, unions, and labor confederations to talk with us. We want to hear what they think. We want to learn how they think we should handle a problem as critical as the Salvadoran problem. Later, if possible, we want to seek a consensus and a rapprochement among the various sectors through meetings, so that they can talk among themselves. Everyone should listen. I believe that each sector has just demands and should be heard, not only by the government, but by everyone. In other words, we must seek a consensus that would make solving the crisis less problematic and burdensome for the Salvadoran people so that we can overcome this situation as soon as possible.

[Rivas] Mr President, the Salvadoran Armed Forces have criticized some leftist figures for denouncing human rights violations. They even criticized the frequent presence of leftists in the news media. Do you agree with that criticism?

[Cristiani] I think much of the criticism of the actions of the Armed Forces is groundless. I think the Armed Forces are trying very hard to act with a great deal of professionalism. They are always careful that the diverse

units of the Armed Forces and the security corps act within the law. I have informed many garrisons about this. We have had talks. I have heard the comments of Salvadoran officers. They are acting in a situation that is extremely difficult. They are trying to do what is best, within El Salvador's legal process.

I think exaggerations are often specifically directed toward discrediting something. In this case, I agree with the view of the Armed Forces that there is a great deal of disinformation. I do not mean to say everything is perfect in the Armed Forces or that everything is perfect anywhere. We can only find perfection with God. Here, we make mistakes. The most we can ask for is to do our best to stop repeating those mistakes. In overall terms, the Armed Forces are making a good effort to try to protect the Salvadoran people. It is not their policy to disrespect human rights and attack civilians who are trying to work honestly and survive at such a critical time as this.

[Rivas] What about the second part of my question, on the presence of leftists in the news media?

[Cristiani] We believe that in our democratic country there is freedom of expression. I have always believed that to further a country's political culture, we must listen to views from different sectors. This is good as long as we try to be impartial and give time to all sectors involved. This way, a news medium does not try to lead the public to a certain goal and just serves as the instrument through which the person reading or listening to it can learn all views so he can freely choose what he thinks is the most accurate opinion. I think that most news media, if not all, are working toward that goal. It is to be expected that a person who feels one way will always say that the news media is giving more space to the other side. In general terms, I think that this is not a big problem. For example, this program presents persons representing different views and different topics. I think the viewer comes out the winner. The people acquire greater political awareness and form their own opinions.

[Koberg] The Armed Forces recently denounced that the left, together with the FMLN, has orchestrated a campaign to say the number of arrests and tortures was up, as Ricardo mentioned earlier. We have also found this mentioned in the latest FMLN communique. They say the right conditions for dialogue do not exist in our country. They are specifically referring to two things—the economic measures and an upsurge in repression. Do you agree? What can you say about this?

[Cristiani] I do not agree with that view, Lorena. I think that we must look at the situation from a realistic standpoint. It is true that the FMLN and all groups related to it—not necessarily armed groups, but groups that share the FMLN's strategy—have stated that they will move very strongly to destabilize the country and the government during the initial months. That is mentioned in their operation called "All Against ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance]," and their "Leon 1"

and "Leon 2" plans [not further identified]. In sum, this is mentioned in a number of plans we have managed to uncover from many documents seized from them.

The Armed Forces cannot stand idly by and allow these groups to carry out their plans, because these plans are not only detrimental to the government, but to the people as a whole.

When a great deal of terrorist violence is created and when much street violence is created, everyone is adversely affected; we believe the Armed Forces have an obligation to prevent this from happening. We believe that when it prevents violence, it is doing a more professional job than if it allowed it to take place, because once the violence gets started, the consequences of their actions may be a lot more unfortunate. We believe that the policy of trying to prevent violent plans before they are carried out is something that has produced good results.

Of course, the people suspected by the Armed Forces of supporting the FMLN plans are arrested and turned over to the judge once the evidence is gathered. I can tell you that this is very difficult. Unfortunately many of those who are arrested are later released. Many of them turn out to be innocent because suspicions may turn out to be false and the judge is there to prevent mistakes from being committed. However, the Armed Forces are acting within a legal framework.

There are cases such as (Mr Masariego). When he was released, it was confirmed that there was absolutely nothing wrong with him, and we have here documents proving that. However, he toured the United States to show off his burned knee and to say that he had been tortured here in El Salvador. It had been proven that there was absolutely nothing wrong with him when he was released. The left wants to discredit the government and the Armed Forces abroad. However, I do not believe the left has been successful.

[Koberg] Mr President, an analyst who met with us a short time ago gave his opinion on the possibility of a dialogue and its results. He was not very optimistic, and he said that there were several points that could become obstacles to the dialogue. One of them was the economic measures. He said that the FMLN could not hold negotiations with the government as long as the government maintained the economic measures it was implementing. We have learned from the FMLN communiques, which always talk about the need to keep implementing the agrarian reform process and other series of points concerning the economic measures. I would like to ask you, within this framework, what the government can negotiate or what the government understands by negotiation. Could there be possible negotiation on the economic policy?

[Cristiani] I believe the word negotiation here in our country no longer has that generic meaning given by the dictionary. This word has been manipulated by leftist forces in the sense that to negotiate is to accept what the

FMLN wants. According to the left, that is what negotiating means. I believe the word negotiation has a generic meaning. A negotiation is to try to find joint agreements to solve a problem and that is what we have been proposing. We have sought agreements on the largest number of points possible. Logically, not all points will be accepted by the other side and we believe the FMLN is making a mistake when it thinks it will negotiate its economic, political, or social platform with the government. The FMLN must understand that they have to negotiate their plans for the country with the people. That is done by political campaigns and by showing their proposals to the public. If the people are convinced that their proposals are best, they will get the votes and they will have the right to implement their programs and their political, economic, and social programs.

In this case, unfortunately they did not participate; it was our party platform that was chosen by the people. This gives the government the right to implement what the majority of the people ask of them.

We do not think the FMLN should oppose this offering. The FMLN refuses to talk with the government and keeps looking for excuses and setting conditions, such as demanding that the government declare itself temporary before any talks are considered. They know they are asking the impossible. Their true purpose is to refuse to talk seriously, which the Salvadoran people wants them to do. Lorena, I do not think we should confuse the various factors involved. Holding a dialogue is not easy, as pointed out by this analyst, whose name I do not know. The situation is not easy to resolve. This process could well last many months or even years. It is necessary to start now with a dialogue in which both sides begin to discuss, not what they cannot agree on, but what we can agree on. We should begin by trying to eliminate the violence that prevails in the country. If they find they cannot agree on some of the government proposals, the government should also consider an alternative position. The FMLN keeps saying that there are no proper conditions for talking.

Imagine how the rest of the people feel when there are acts of sabotage against transportation, energy, this and that, the mines, on a daily basis? Is this what the FMLN calls creating conditions for a dialogue? No.

Consequently, it must be understood that the FMLN is always strategically saying that they are interested in seeking a political solution, but it is only propaganda to sell abroad because they are always placing obstacles and making a solution difficult.

Our 1 June position was adopted after much meditation. We said that no previous conditions should be established to begin a peace process. I recall that Duarte was always calling for a suspension of hostilities to begin talks. He kept saying: If hostilities do not stop, I will not sit down to talk with you [the FMLN].

With regard to the Central American presidents, they said that the FMLN had to stop its hostilities to begin a

dialogue. However, we established no previous conditions, to show the Salvadoran people, and even the FMLN, that we are sincerely hoping to talk. We are doing this so that no more bombs will be detonated, no more bullets will kill civilians, and no more mines will maim so many children.

We want a serious dialogue. We do not want it to be a publicity stunt. We want it to be something that, in the end, will benefit the Salvadoran people, not just one side or the other.

[Rivas] You and your cabinet have called for understanding the economic measures that are being implemented in our country. We have perceived that many, quote, businessmen, unquote, are making a fortune through price speculation. In sum, you know better about this than we do. People are very upset over this. We have become aware of this through the people's telephone calls and letters. This is a very important question for our viewers and we would like you to tell us what the government will do. Do you have the personnel to investigate these violations against consumers?

[Cristiani] We believe that there has been much speculation on the part of certain businessmen. This has prompted a meeting of several cabinet ministers with almost 200 members of the private sector who are leaders of organizations who represent various areas. The ministers told them not to commit abuses and not to intend to make in a month the profits they have not made over the past 10 years.

They were told that the economic measures are necessary because of our critical situation and that they must also make some sacrifice. We ask them to be responsible. We will always first appeal to their responsibility. We feel that Salvadorans are mature enough to understand what is needed to get out of a critical situation such as ours. We issued a call to these businessmen and we got commitments, at least at the leadership level, from the business organizations, that they will reach a gentlemen's agreement not to exaggerate prices, because there is no justification for an increase of more than 30 percent; that is the limit for products that are 100 percent imported, without even adding local costs to them. I repeat: There is no justification for increases of over 30 percent. In this regard, we have seen many abuses. We have seen people who establish a markup of over 100 percent for a product. This is clearly not good.

However, we have always believed, Ricardo, that freedom is freedom. Freedom sometimes goes against those who want to abuse it. In this regard, we will try to promote consumer awareness. We will let consumers know the price of a product in various businesses. Consequently, those who want to be abusive with prices will soon find that no one will buy from them. Consumers will go to where prices are more reasonable.

Good and conscientious businessmen will try to increase sales through competition. We must promote competition in this country.

For this reason, another measure would be to open our economy to products that will increase competition. Competition within one sector is what keeps prices at a reasonable level.

We also believe that we need to create a consensus. This is why I was saying at the beginning that we intend to talk with other sectors so that all the sectors will talk among themselves and discuss their concerns to reach a national agreement to get out of this crisis as soon as possible. We want to put an end to abuses. If there are sacrifices, it will be because we must truly make them. It is not that we want sacrifices per se. We have reached a critical situation and when there is a crisis, someone has to make sacrifices. However, we do not want one sector to sacrifice for the benefit of another. What we want is, if sacrifices must be made, that they be proportionally and equitably shared by all. We do not want anyone to carry the big burden of the crisis while others are benefiting from it.

[Rivas] I have commented on my next question with several personalities in our Face to Face program. You were talking about opening the economy. This would result in a competition that would benefit consumers in the long run. However, we know perfectly well that in a country with a small economy like ours, producers are very few. This could definitely lead to agreements among producers, and consumers would be left without any protection.

[Cristiani] On the contrary, Ricardo, consumers benefit when an economy is open because there are more products to choose from and competition will always result in lower prices. Competition never leads to higher prices.

I believe that you are right when you say that the country is not prepared for a total opening of its economy. There has been a lot of protectionism of local industries. We think some of this protectionism is justified, some is not. We believe that the economy should be further opened, but this must be done responsibly to benefit consumers, without taking away the right producers have to make a normal profit so that they can keep their businesses or industries running.

For this reason, we have always talked about doing things gradually. We have not thought about opening the economy overnight. We want to allow national producers to adjust to the open economic system, instead of putting them through a traumatic shock that would lead them to close down their businesses because they cannot adapt to a new situation within the short term. Consequently, the opening of the economy will be gradual.

In addition, I do not believe that El Salvador has to continue being a small producer. There is Hong Kong, for example. It is no bigger than our capital, or at least no

bigger than San Salvador Department, and it is a tremendous producer. It is a matter of fomenting industries, particularly the exporting industrial sector, because this opens the market. If we close the market, our country's industries will operate for local consumption only and it has a limit. We are only 5 million Salvadorans and there would be no more consumers.

However, if we promote exports, the market would be endless. There would be all kinds of possibilities to produce for consumers around the world. This is what we want and this is why we believe the best model to follow is one that promotes exports. We must follow this model not to get benefits now, but to promote the growth of a new exporting industries that will also allow us to import that which is not produced in El Salvador for the consumption of Salvadorans.

[Koberg] One of the economic measures that have been the cause of much concern among Salvadorans was the increase in the price of medicine. This morning we received several telephone calls about it. Why are medicine prices not being controlled? Medicine is a basic product for solving health problems. The price of medicine should be within everyone's reach. It has been said that the government has permitted an excessive increase in the price of these products.

[Cristiani] I must refer back to the year 1986 to examine what happened to imported medicines: a change was made in the foreign exchange rate used to import medicines. The price of medicines doubled in 1986 because the price of the dollar doubled.

When we took office on 1 June, a good share of the medicines were being imported through the fluctuating foreign exchange market. The exchange rate was 6.50 colones per dollar. We imported most medicines from Central America, from laboratories in Costa Rica or Guatemala in particular. Not much medicine was being imported at the official 5.00-colones-per-dollar exchange rate.

The most serious problem we had to face was that there was no foreign exchange. The Central Reserve Bank had no foreign exchange. Therefore, we had to look into two possibilities: We either maintained the prices of medicine based on the 5 to 1 official market rate—a demand we could not meet because we had no foreign exchange—or this would result in a scarcity of medicines, or we simply allowed importers to seek foreign exchange on the free market in order to get the medicines.

We believe that faced with these two alternatives, it is better to have medicines at higher prices than not to have them at all. We also agree with those who said that, in the beginning, to many medicine distributors excessively increased the prices of medicines again.

The economy minister has summoned DIPROFA [Distribuidores de Productos Farmaceuticos], which is the Association of Distributors of Pharmaceutical Products, and reached a self-control agreement with them. It is very

difficult to control prices when a cost factor such as the foreign exchange rate to import is so uncertain. Therefore, they agreed to control prices themselves. They will establish the price of medicines but it will be based on an average rate as established in the unofficial market. Distributors were also asked to keep the same profit margins they previously had. They said that they hope medicine prices will become stable again.

We do believe and agree with some people that abuses have been committed in increasing the prices of medicines excessively. I want to note that regarding these prices—which is something that worries low-income people very much—we foresee a period of adjustment when price stability will be sought in an effort to solve the economic problems.

We think that in the very near future—not many months and much less, not many years from now—the trend will be toward more stable prices and there will be no more speculation which results in varying situations. This is because our economic measures are basically aimed at that—at stabilization. Through this stabilization we intend to boost to the economy in order to develop it.

Many of the measures that have been adopted are not truly measures of a macroeconomic policy. These are measures that had to be taken because we faced these problems when we took office and there was no alternative. It was not only a matter of not having foreign exchange at the Central Reserve Bank, but there was the problem that all imports from January to May had been made with letters of credit to be paid in 180 days. This meant that what we imported from January to May had not been paid. We had to pay it in the 2d half of the year, thus making our problem more serious. Going a bit further, the previous administration was already past due in paying its foreign credits. Therefore, in many cases, the flow of foreign credits for our country had stopped. So, there was a standstill in the flow of foreign exchange in addition to a very poor coffee harvest, a harvest that is almost all sold.

In sum, these are not measures one wants to adopt per se, it is just that sometimes one does not have many alternatives. I believe that, if one wonders what is better, to import the product at a higher price or not to have that product at all, they will see that it is better to have it at a higher price, than not at all. Now we will see how we can help people with lower incomes. This is what we intend to do through a social emergency program we will announce tonight.

[Koberg] One of our guests also said that this was just the beginning as far as economic policy was concerned and that, in the future, we could expect more measures that would increase the Salvadorans' cost of living. Is it true that this is only the beginning of an entire program with new future economic measures or is this the worst part of the economic plan?

[Cristiani] I think that this is the worst part of the economic plan. However, as we have repeatedly stated,

we want to be very clear about the objective we are following and the fact that steps will be gradually taken.

Logically, the first impact must be taken bearing the intensity of the crisis in mind. Gradual adjustment will come later on. It is true that within the gradual nature of our steps, a program like ours will have subsequent repercussions but this is the strongest impact it will have because the strength of the impact must result in stability thus allowing the economy to take off.

Whenever the effects of the economic policy are experienced, but not when the country is in an economic decline but in an upward mode, then there are few sacrifices because there are many possibilities for one to act on, there are many tools which can be used to soften the measures impact. The problem arises when the crisis is serious and there is not much to grab hold of to palliate it or do this or that differently. The problem arises when the alternatives are very few.

I want to use an example to explain my point. There has been much criticism of the type of measures that were taken. Some criticized the fact that measures were taken instead of continuing the way we were. Some just have ideological differences as to how the economy should be handled. They say: This model would have been better than that model.

I think that we can look at other countries to see what has happened elsewhere and what could happen in this country. If we decided not to do anything: to continue with the same system the previous administration used, which was palliating the crisis, covering holes as some say, we would have begun a spiraling inflation.

Let us look at the examples: Argentina. No, instead let us look closer: Nicaragua. We are talking here about a possible inflationary impact that ranges between 15 and 20 percent. In Nicaragua, they have reached an 20,000 percent annual inflation rate just because they did not want to do anything; they wanted to continue with the same system. It is good to mention that Salvadoran leftist forces such as the Democratic Convergence, the FMLN, etc, defend the Nicaraguan system. This means that the price of something is multiplied 20,000 times and at the end of the year that is the price you pay.

Consequently, I am mentioning this to have a perspective of what could happen in El Salvador if responsible measures are not taken now. I am saying responsible because we know that this can affect us. There are many people who, justifiably so, could be angry. Perhaps they are saying: This government is increasing the price of everything. However, how would things be if prices went up by 20,000 percent a year, rather than 15 or 20 percent a year?

In addition, let us take a look at what would happen to the foreign exchange rate if immediate action is not taken to correct the situation. The cordoba in Nicaragua—now that three zeros have been taken away from the figure—[changes thought]. We are talking here about

a 30 percent correction/adjustment, in Nicaragua it went from 7 cordobas per dollar to 20,500 per dollar on the official market and the figure is even higher in the free market.

Consequently, I believe that it must be understood that we must prevent certain measures that will surely affect certain people, if not everyone. This will be done so that we can soon begin to enjoy the fruits of such measures in the immediate future. These economic measures will result in greater employment once the economy becomes stable and takes an upward swing. This greater employment means that more people will have income and this that the people will spread well-being to their families. This is the famous virtuous circle [circulo virtuoso] John Paul II has mentioned.

What we want is the economy to begin developing. But this will not happen overnight. Twenty or 50 enterprises will not be born in 24 hours. We must first go through a period of adjustment, a transition period. We must go through that period to begin feeling the benefits. We also want a government that will run the public administration honestly and efficiently. We want it to use the few resources it has for the benefit of the most sacrificed sectors, the sectors with the lowest incomes or the least resources.

We also want a depoliticized financial system, a financial system that will reward, not punish, those who save. We also want to control inflation. Inflation is a most severe burden that affects everyone. However, if it is handled right now, we will be able to stop it in the near future. In other words, if may very well jump now, it will drop to a 5- or 7-percent level, like in the United States, which is something normal, but we must never permit that—because nothing is done about it—the inflation will increase and things will go up 20,000 times in a year.

[Rivas] You had previously stated that a 15- to 20-percent inflation rate a year was to be expected and as you yourself said, this was preferable to having an inflation rate of 25,000 percent as in the Nicaraguan case. You had also stated previously that some products have increased by 100 percent in a month's time and, if this was so, what was to be expected in a year's time. Are you referring to such a situation when you stated that you expected inflation to get down to its proper level? How long will this take?

[Cristiani] First, I believe that not all sectors have made unfair price increases; only some. Inflation in a country is calculated by averaging the prices of its basic products. Thus, we cannot... [changes thought] Sure, some persons have increased certain products by 100 percent but other products have not been increased at all. However, when we talk about the inflation rate, we are referring to the average that is calculated—in this country and in others—in the traditional manner. We do not necessarily use the cost of a vehicle to measure inflation. Inflation is based on the prices of the basic bread basket. These

prices, as may be recalled, are still controlled by government because we know that the country's low income sectors would be greatly affected if these products were increased. Furthermore, I believe that some prices have actually decreased. For example, we called the petroleum companies and told them that they had increased petroleum by-products excessively; items such as oils, lubricants, and others. The economy minister called them and told them that this was totally unjustifiable and I believe they corrected the prices and the price of lubricants decreased again. We hope that the same can be done in cases of speculation.

I do want to point out though that if we open up to competition, open up our economy, and if, for example, we lower the import tariff for a product that is presently not imported because the tariff is too high—our economic program includes the reduction and unification of tariffs—there will be more products in the market and competition will commence. Competition is what will make prices decrease and be balanced. That is to say, a salesman will have to offer efficiency, effectiveness in operation, and sell at a price that is equal or less than his competition. When his competition becomes aware of the situation, he in turn will become more efficient and do all he can to get more competitive. In the long run this is what stabilizes prices.

[Rivas] Mr President, we want to thank you for your presence here this morning. We know you are a very busy person and thus greatly appreciate your visit on our program's 2d anniversary. It has been a pleasure to have the Salvadoran president here with us on such a special morning.

[Cristiani] The pleasure has been mine, Lorena and Ricardo. Again, my congratulations to you for the program's anniversary.

[Rivas] Along with the country's president, Lorena and myself would like to thank you all for being with us on the morning of a very special day for all the persons who have worked in this program for the past 2 years.

[Koberg] We also invite you to be again with us tomorrow morning at 0615. Have a happy day.

Cristiani on Talks With FMLN, Nicaraguan Aid

PA2708201989 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish
1900 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Report by Alberto Barrera]

[Text] San Salvador, 27 Aug (REUTER)—Alfredo Cristiani, the Salvadoran rightist president, is convinced that his government and the leftist guerrillas might reach an agreement to put an end to nearly 10 years of civil war that has left a toll of 70,000 deaths.

"I believe the fact that there are such marked differences is what sometimes allows reaching agreements" in a

conflict in which none of the parties has achieved military victory, the president said today in an interview with REUTER.

The government is "willing to develop a mechanism of dialogue" with the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), he added. "The final objective is to try to find an overall agreement" that will achieve peace.

However, the goal will be difficult to achieve, the president added. Cristiani is also a businessman and leader of the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA).

"We are talking about a process, because we believe that this is not an easy task. We believe we will not achieve overall agreements in a short time," he stated.

In his effort to find a negotiated solution to the conflict, the Cristiani government is facing criticism from the most radical groups in his party and also from the Armed Forces chiefs, who prefer to continue trying to achieve military victory before negotiating with the rebels.

When he took over the Presidency on 1 June, Cristiani brought up the need to hold a dialogue with the rebels under no prior conditions, a stand that was supported by the Central American presidents during the summit held in Honduras early in August.

The Salvadoran Government is currently engaged in forming a commission that will be in charge of negotiating with the FMLN, while this organization has said it is willing to hold peace conversations.

The commission will include the ministers of the Presidency and of justice, one member of the Legislative Assembly, one of the Supreme Court, and a personal representative of the president.

However, the makeup of the commission has been highly criticized. Some opposition parties stress ARENA's strong control over it, while other parties concur with the FMLN that Armed Forces representatives must attend.

"There has always been a boycott from all the parties toward the government initiative, and we want to see how much we can agree on for the sake of starting a dialogue as a national rather than a partisan project," he noted.

Cristiani stated that the agreements reached at the Honduras summit, which include the disbandment of the contras, gave new momentum to the possibility of ending the Salvadoran strife. He also stressed that the commitments made must be fully kept.

The Salvadoran president said Nicaragua has not ceased helping the FMLN, although Daniel Ortega as well as the other presidents agreed not to provide help to insurgent forces attacking the area governments.

Cristiani reiterated his charge that the guerrillas' Radio Venceremos transmits from Nicaragua. The FMLN rejects this, saying that the radio station operates inside El Salvador.

The president added: "There are indications that nothing is being done to dismantle the FMLN's logistical apparatus in Managua and surrounding areas, and we have already sent a letter noting this fact," he said.

Cristiani also recalled that the summit stressed the need to promote democratic reforms in Nicaragua in exchange for promoting the disbanding of the contras stationed in Honduras. The contras fought the Sandinist government for 8 years with assistance from the United States.

However, he explained that the task of the Central American presidents is to ensure those reforms are implemented without meddling in Nicaragua's internal policies.

"In the end, we are not here to meddle in Nicaragua's affairs," the Salvadoran president noted.

Dialogue Commission Proposed to Legislature

PA2708010589 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1902 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Text] San Salvador, 26 Aug (DPA)—Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani is trying to establish a new dialogue commission to seek a mechanism for peace with the guerrillas, but he insists that such a commission should exclude the Catholic Church and the Armed Forces.

On 25 August Cristiani visited the Legislative Assembly and talked with deputies of various persuasions, explaining the advisability of having the Legislative Branch participate in the dialogue commission, not from a partisan viewpoint, but as representatives of the people.

Cristiani said that the assembly could select a slate of three deputies for the Executive Branch to choose a member of the commission. He would also like to have a representative from the Supreme Court of Justice.

What the Executive Branch has refused to accept—and opposition sectors see this as appeasement of the right wing—is inclusion of the church as a mediator or moderator, or even as a member. He also rejects the Armed Forces, because those two sectors should be apolitical, according to the Constitution.

However, leftists and other sectors maintain that the political role of the Armed Forces in El Salvador cannot be ignored, and the military's opposition to essentially political measures either undermine or reinforce those measures, depending on the sectors that the measures affect.

The president talked extensively with deputies 25 August, indicating that it is urgently necessary to begin a debate or discussion with the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] as soon as possible, beginning with an examination of points of convergence, rather than of disagreement, because when one begins with the differences, nothing is achieved. He explained that this is so because the FMLN rejects certain subjects, while wishing to deal first with other topics that are unacceptable or that require lengthy study.

On the other hand, populist sectors, primarily the Permanent Committee of the National Debate on Peace, which groups some 76 social forces, called on both the government and the guerrillas to begin the dialogue immediately, because for the past 10 years the people have been enduring a war that shows no signs of solution.

Similarly, the Salvadoran Episcopal Conference issued a call this week for all the nation's sectors to seek a path to peace.

All these actions are countermanded by the recruitment of the young sons of workers and peasants to join the Armed Forces, which indicates that there is no intention to reduce troop strength, but rather to increase it to continue the war.

Army Dislodges Textile Workers From Factory

PA2708032089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1810 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Text] San Salvador, 26 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Union sources reported today that workers of the country's most important textile factory, who have been on strike for the past 10 days, were dislodged from the firm's installations by the Army.

Guillermo Rojas, National Union of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS) leader, stated that the Army "violently dislodged" the factory workers. The factory is located on the outskirts of San Salvador.

According to Rojas, some 200 workers were in the installations at the time. He added that the workers will continue to strike outside the factory despite the dislodgement.

Approximately 1,000 workers started a strike 10 days ago to demand, among other things, wage increases and better conditions for workers.

The Labor Ministry declared the strike illegal on 23 August and determined that the workers had to end the strike and return to work. The workers, however, have stated that they will continue to strike.

Rebel Radio Airs Battle Reports 12-14 Aug

PA2408220189

[Editorial Report] Following is a compilation of battle reports issued by (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador on 12, 13, and 14 August.

12 August [2300 GMT]

The station announcer first states that the radio has received a report from the Modesto Ramirez Front, Chalatenango sector, which says that "on 12 August at 0705 guerrilla units using four mines and rifle fire ambushed an enemy patrol walking from Tejutla to El Manguito. The skirmish lasted 2 hours, and six soldiers were hit by our fire. The enemy ran from El Manguito to Aposentos Municipality and Los Pocitos. Even though the enemy received support from an A-37 plane and a C-47 plane, they were not able to stop our fire. We confirm we caused four casualties among the enemy troops."

The report adds that on the same day "at 0940 our units began fighting between Tejutla and Concepcion neighborhoods where an enemy unit was traveling. Our sniper unit inflicted three casualties, making a total of seven casualties on 12 August in Tejutla, Chalatenango."

Radio Farabundo Marti reports further that "on 8 August at 0400 FMLN guerrillas attacked an enemy post located in Santa Rita, Dulce Nombre de Maria, Chalatenango. The enemy fired a few shots and then fled. Our units distributed propaganda in Santa Rita and in Los Perazas hamlet." It then reports that "on 11 August our units seized control of a sector of the northern trunk highway from 0500 until 1500. The enemy did not show up. At 1400 another guerrilla unit occupied San Francisco Morazan for 2 hours. At 1500 our units began a skirmish with 4th Infantry Brigade units in Tejutla and Concepcion neighborhoods. During the 30-minute skirmish two soldiers were killed."

The station adds it received a report from the Feliciano Ama Front claiming that "on 23 July guerrilla units blew up an electricity tower in Chanchuapa, Santa Ana. On 2 August, rebel units blew up two electricity poles, also in Chanchuapa, Santa Ana." On 5 August, the station adds, "guerrilla units blew up a electricity pole in Ahuachapan." The station notes that "these sabotage actions have been carried out in cities where the Army claims it is in control."

Another report received from the Feliciano Ama Front states that "on 12 August at 0640 a guerrilla unit inflicted one casualty on 2d Infantry Brigade troops. Ten minutes later a sniper inflicted another casualty in Plan Galan hamlet, north of Metapan." The report adds that "on 12 August at 1335 our guerrillas inflicted another casualty on 2d Infantry Brigade troops in El Pinal farm. Our units report they have had no problem."

13 August [2300 GMT]

The station announcer begins by summarizing the number of casualties inflicted by the FMLN during the previous week, beginning on 6 August, and reports: "There is a total of 76 dead and injured as a result of the previous week's successful battles. This figure includes two subsergeants and one patrol leader. Events during

the week include five ambushes, three of which were in San Salvador where we inflicted 20 casualties among enemy troops."

The announcer then lists what has been destroyed or damaged during the week: "Three military trucks were partially destroyed, one O-2 push-pull small airplane was seriously damaged, and one UH-1N helicopter gunship was damaged by our anti-aircraft fire in the northern part of the San Miguel Department." He adds: "As part of our tactics against the electrical supply system, we have sabotaged three electrical structures that include posts, transformers, and towers."

The report adds: "As part of our sabotage against the oligarchic economy, we report striking two buses of special route A, one CEL [Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission] vehicle, and one FENADESAL [Salvadoran National Railroads] train."

The station announcer then lists war bulletins from Guazapa, from the western part of the country, from the metropolitan area, and from the Francisco Sanchez eastern front. The announcer reminds listeners that these reports were not included in the week's events and says: "The first report is from the Modesto Ramirez central front, Guazapa area. At 1000 on 10 August, San Carlos Battalion troops belonging to the 1st Infantry Brigade walked into a mine field, which left two soldiers injured at San Jose Guayabal Jurisdiction, Cuscatlan Department. At 1800 on 12 August, the San Carlos Battalion came across mines placed in their path at Los Lirios. One soldier was killed and two were seriously injured. At 1300 on 13 August, Atlacatl Battalion units walked into a mine field, and there were two casualties. At 1330 another Atlacatl Battalion unit walked into a mine field at Cerro Campanario, Guazapa hill, causing one more casualty. At 1900 on 10 August, urban commandos took a patrol car by surprise. They dropped a grenade inside the car, injuring four and partially destroying the vehicle."

The announcer continues: "This successful operation took place outside the Avenida Cinema in San Salvador, scarcely 1 block from a National Guard garrison."

The station announcer lists its reports from Santa Ana: "At 0415 on 12 August we inflicted four casualties among troops belonging to the 2d Infantry Brigade at [words indistinct]. At 1715 another casualty was inflicted at El Pear farm. At 0130 on 12 August we inflicted one more casualty at Puertas Negras."

The announcer ends his report by stating: "The Francisco Sanchez eastern front reports that at 1500 on 12 August guerrilla units attacked an enemy position in the northern part of Morazan Department. The clash lasted 20 minutes and we inflicted two casualties on the enemy."

14 August [2300 GMT]

The radio reports from an Anastacio Aquino Front war bulletin, which states that FMLN guerrilla units ambushed the 1st Company of Military Detachment No 2 JR Battalion at La Pena Canton, Villa Victoria Jurisdiction, Cabanas Department, at 0745 on 14 August, "killing six enemies and wounding four others."

The radio announcer then gives a report coming from the Modesto Ramirez Front in Chalatenango Department, which states that guerrilla units clashed with Bracamonte Battalion troops at Nueva Trinidad Jurisdiction at 0900 on 14 August, inflicting two casualties on the "demoralized Bracamonte Battalion troops."

Another report says that a group of FMLN guerrillas occupied the town of Dulce Nombre de Maria, Chalatenango Department, during 5 hours at 1500 on 11 August.

The radio station goes on to air a report stating that guerrilla units attacked a military post with mortar fire, grenades, and M-16 rifle fire, "killing one enemy and wounding another at 1215 on 13 August." The attack was carried out "only 100 meters away from a checkpoint located at the entrance to the town of La Palma."

The next report coming from Chalatenango Department says that FMLN militias sabotaged power lines along the road linking Nueva Concepcion to the Northern Trunk Highway at 1800 on 12 August.

The announcer then says that guerrilla units attacked 3d Infantry Brigade troops at Los Avelines Canton, Guatajiagua Jurisdiction, Morazan Department, at 1600 on 11 August, inflicting four casualties. The report states: "The attack was carried out with hand grenades and rifle fire." "We report that one of our comrades was wounded in this attack, but not very seriously."

The next report states that guerrilla units inflicted one casualty among the Marines Battalion in Jucuaran Jurisdiction, Usulután Department, at 1200 on 12 August.

The last report says that FMLN units wounded one Oromontique Battalion corporal at El Tablon, Jucuaran Jurisdiction, at 1630 on 13 August.

Honduras**Azcona on U.S. Aid After Tela Agreement**

PA2508151889 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 23 Aug 89 p 3

[Text] Honduran President Jose Azcona yesterday ruled out the possibility that U.S. President George Bush's administration may drastically cut its economic aid to Honduras as a result of the decision adopted in Tela on 7 August to demobilize the Nicaraguan rebel forces.

U.S. press reports have revealed that a conservative organization operating in that country has asked President Bush to suspend economic aid to Honduras, as a reaction to the five Central American presidents' agreement in Tela.

Azcona Hoyo said he feels optimistic that the U.S. Administration will not adopt this kind of measure, and added that the government of the most powerful nation in the world will not be influenced by any organization wishing to defend its own interests.

Within the same context of the regional crisis, the president said that if the Nicaraguan contras decide to continue their struggle within Nicaraguan territory, the problem would have to be solved by the Sandinists.

Nevertheless, Azcona Hoyo said that if the anti-Sandinist rebels make this type of decision it could possibly "hinder" the peace process that the five presidents are trying to implement in the isthmus.

The president said that ideally Nicaragua would offer a "real opportunity" designed to establish the necessary individual guarantees that would allow the rebels to return to their country.

Nicaragua**Ortega Gives Speech on Sandinist TV Anniversary**

PA2708160689 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 2230 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega Saavedra at the Eddie Berrios Studio of the Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Managua—live]

[Text] Good afternoon, Nicaraguan brothers, Sistema Sandinista Television comrades and workers. Today we pay special tribute to the comrades who have been working unceasingly for 10 years with Sistema Sandinista Television. They represent the effort, dedication, and abnegation of all the Nicaraguan workers, who have in Sistema Sandinista a place of struggle. This afternoon, I want to remember with you Eddie Berrios, who worked at Channel 2 before the revolution triumphed, who identified himself with the Nicaraguan people's struggle, and who died defending the interests of the Nicaraguan people. [applause]

Berrios is still an example for all of us, particularly for the Sistema Sandinista workers. You who work here around the clock offer the Nicaraguan people hours of entertainment, information, and relaxation—and even tension when there are reports to deliver to the population that cause tension, or movies and programs that can also cause tension to those watching television. Speaking of television, I hope that all the comrades who have worked here for 10 years have at least one small television set. Do you all have a television set? I hope none of you experiences what many of us went through—not having a television set in our homes. We did not have

one because we could not afford one. I do not remember anyone who had a television set. Perhaps that is why many of us as adults still have the urge to watch cartoons and why we now watch the cartoons we never watched as children.

All this pertains to the media's connection with the revolution. The media is directed very differently from how it was directed before 19 July 1979. The Nicaraguan media then, including television, had been organized to defend the interests of the ruling exploitation system. Television, as well as other media such as the press and radio, and even what was then described as the opposition press, which opposed Somoism, did not oppose the system itself. These were media systems designed and organized to defend the capitalist structures, to defend the exploitation of man by man, to defend the rich exploiting the workers, peasants, farm and city workers, professionals, and technicians. These were systems to defend the subordination of national interests to the interest of imperialism, systems to defend the political, economic, and culture dependence on imperialism.

There were workers in these media who sometimes managed to get into some programs and put in certain information for the benefit of the population. These were isolated cases and could not be often because the country's media and television were in the hands of capitalists. The names and surnames do not matter, but the media were in the hands of capitalists. LA PRENSA and NOVEDADES were in the hands of capitalists and defended capitalist interests. They all combined in condemning the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] when we were fighting against the Somoza dictatorship. They all united in attacking the FSLN. There were no differences between LA PRENSA and NOVEDADES, much less in television. There were journalists who tried delivering a different message, but as I said before, those were brief attempts that could not be kept up because repression within the media would then start. Before the triumph of the revolution, there was no freedom of expression for the people in Nicaragua. The capitalists, the imperialists, and the Nicaraguan bourgeoisie had freedom of expression. The workers, laborers, peasants, technicians, professionals, or the intellectuals had none. Freedom of expression was denied to all of them.

Likewise, there was also a monopoly that denied access to the media to those political forces opposing the system. To be able to send a message to the people, the FSLN had to take over a radio station, just like Jorge Navarro did in the 1960's when he took over Radio Mundial and sent an FSLN proclamation.

An extraordinary action had to take place, such as the takeover of Chema Castillo's house on 27 December 1974, to force the regime to publish the FSLN message in all the media. Another extraordinary action had to take place, such as the takeover of the national palace on 22 August 1978, to force the capitalist regime to publish the FSLN message. LA PRENSA newspaper would not

publish FSLN messages on its own accord, even though the Somozists did not prohibit LA PRENSA from doing so. They all agreed to use their monopolistic interests as rich owners of these capitalist media to prevent access to the media by the people's forces, or the workers' forces represented by the FSLN.

The media was used to note the celebration of a rich person's birthday. Sometimes people with little resources had to make great efforts to get the media to publish a note announcing 9-day prayers for some deceased relative, or to announce a burial. Before the revolution there was no freedom of expression in Nicaragua for the people, not under the liberal or the conservative party governments, and not under the Somoza or Chamorro governments. The privileged had freedom of expression to defend what they considered their right to get rich at the expense of the people, to exploit the people, to steal the peasants' land, and to repress the workers, students, and the population who exhibited discontent with the ruling regime.

All this changed with the 19 July 1979 triumph of the revolution. For the first time in Nicaragua's history the working people gained access to all the media. The rich and the capitalists also received the opportunity of access to the media. For the first time there is freedom of expression in Nicaragua in absolute terms, and all political, social, and economic forces can freely express themselves. Through their newspapers and radio stations, the rich, the capitalists, and the pro-imperialists can vent all their cravings, lies, infamy, and slander without any type of restrictions, and the people can make equal free use of their right to express their opinions and thoughts and defend their interests.

This freedom of expression, which is exemplary in the world and on the American Continent, does not satisfy the aspirations of Yankee imperialism. Therefore, it also does not satisfy the aspirations of those in our country who are on the Yankee payroll and are bent on trying to prove that there is no freedom of information in our fatherland. According to them, there is no freedom of information in our fatherland because the media are not in their hands. In other words, according to the logic of the capitalists, the imperialists, and the shameless, freedom of expression exists only when they have a monopoly on the media. If the media are not in their hands and are instead in the hands of the people—the workers, at the service of the workers, and the people—then there is no freedom of expression. Even though they might have certain media say whatever they care to, they are not satisfied.

For them, freedom of expression would be placing all the media—BARRICADA, EL NUEVO DIARIO, all the radio stations, and Sistema Sandinista Television—in the hands of the rich, the capitalists, the bourgeoisie, or the Somozist guards. If Colonel Enrique Bermudez became the owner of Sistema Sandinista, then they would be satisfied. If this guard Bermudez became owner of BARRICADA and EL NUEVO DIARIO, then they

would be satisfied and they would say that now there is freedom of expression in Nicaragua.

However, the unjust system that existed in our country before the revolution triumphed disappeared with the revolution. Our country is an exemplary democracy for all countries of Latin America. Nicaragua is an exemplary democracy in Latin America, and because there is democracy in Nicaragua, there is absolute freedom of expression—I would say unlimited. Today, in 1 hour—55 minutes to be exact—at 1830, on Channel 2, legally registered parties will be making the first broadcast to make their proposals and ideas known to those interested in knowing what these are.

As of today, 25 September, and until 4 December, 21 legally registered Nicaraguan political parties will have the opportunity to convey their messages on television. That is an unprecedented action in Nicaraguan history. It is an unprecedented action in the history of the misnamed democracies of the American continent, beginning with the misnamed U.S. democracy.

In Nicaragua, we are giving all the legally registered parties the opportunity to talk about their proposals, statements, and positions to all those who are interested in knowing about them.

In many countries, political parties that are not disliked by the owner of a specific medium are not given the opportunity to broadcast messages on that medium, not even if the parties pay for the air time, much less for free as we are offering here in Nicaragua.

When in the history of Nicaragua before 19 July 1979 did the FSLN have the opportunity to communicate its ideas through the media by voluntary agreement of the media?

When in the past did Nicaraguan political parties—which could not be legally registered, because the liberal-conservative political monopoly did not allow them to register, since there could be only a Liberal and a Conservative Party—have access to the media to convey their political messages to the population?

When did those parties ever have access to television? They never did. Now the revolution has granted them access to the media. Now we will have a program during which the political parties will deliver their messages on television. This program will be broadcast daily until the election campaign begins in December. The election campaign will culminate in the 25 February 1990 elections.

If there are technical problems on one television channel, the program will be broadcast over another. The main objective is that the program will always be broadcast.

With this action, the Nicaraguan Government is reasserting the pluralistic character of our revolutionary process. That pluralism is proven not only by the very existence of the Nicaraguan political parties, but also by

the existence of media, including daily and weekly papers and radio programs, that are available to all existing political parties.

Never before in Nicaragua did so many political parties of such marked ideological differences have access to the media, including radio, television, and newspapers, as they do now after the triumph of the revolution.

We are proud of that, because it shows the revolution's strength. The political parties' access to the media proves the defeat of the imperialist plan to try to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution. Such access to the media proves the defeat of the mercenary forces, which have been the instrument of imperialist actions against Nicaragua. Such access proves the end of the war and the policy of death and it stresses the Nicaraguan people's victory, a victory of peace. It is a victory for democracy, freedom, and justice. That is why we are taking all these steps.

That is why we are releasing or liberating peasants who were involved in counterrevolutionary activities. That is why we have organized the peace commission in the various Nicaraguan war zones, so that all those who are still involved in counterrevolutionary activities and wish to take part in the amnesty can do so.

The triumph of peace is what made the Tela agreement signed on 7 August possible. That is why we continue to reassert Nicaragua's independence. With all these actions, we continue to defend our principle of nonalignment—our active participation in the Nonaligned Movement, which will begin its 9th summit on 4 September in Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

We will attend that summit. We will represent the Nicaraguan people there. We will attend that summit to represent you, comrade workers of the Sistema Sandinista Television Network. We will take the message of the Nicaraguan revolution to that summit.

We will take the people's message of hope on the way to development, a message of hope from the so-called Third World countries, a message of hope from those peoples who are struggling for their independence, self-determination, democracy, and true freedom of expression.

Sistema Sandinista, with its director, Comrade Ivan Garcia, and all 265 people who work with him, have accumulated over the years much experience by developing a new philosophy in communications, in which the workers' own actions correspond with the revolution's ideas and concepts.

When Sistema Sandinista Television broadcasts Patriotic Military Service programs, it is broadcasting programs to defend a noble cause—to defend Nicaragua's independence and self-determination in the face of imperialist aggression. In the past, television could not do this, because television was then a blind instrument for the imperialists. When Sistema Sandinista broadcasts these programs, Sistema Sandinista workers are

also mobilizing into the Patriotic Military Service. These workers are not just an exception, simply delivering the message, they are also following that message. We have here 64 Sistema Sandinista comrade workers who have mobilized into Patriotic Military Service. [applause]

By the same token, when television called on the people to organize and mobilize into Military Reserve Service, 270 [as heard] comrades of Sistema Sandinista mobilized into Military Reserve Service. [applause] There could be many more than these 265 workers, because we already know that Military Reserve Service has a multiplying effect. In fact, we could double the number if all the workers were counted. That is why actual totals would surpass the number of workers.

When Sistema Sandinista calls for people to mobilize and go pick coffee in the war zones, it means that 155 comrade Sistema Sandinista workers will also mobilize into production brigades. [applause] This demonstrates the connection between the words and deeds of Sistema Sandinista Television workers, which is the result of the connection between the words and deeds of all Nicaraguans, because we Nicaraguans are men and women of words and deeds.

Meanwhile, we have never seen those who are a minority, those who just talk, concern themselves with saving a harvest. We have never seen them mobilized to pick coffee, much less mobilizing into reserve battalions when our country has been threatened by the intervention of Yankee troops; even less will we ever see them mobilizing to face the mercenary bands, even though they sympathize with them, because they do not take risks. Here we see an attitude of demagoguery, an attitude of total inconsistency. The strong economic groups that are gathered under COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise], the owners of the newspaper LA PRENSA, and the leaders of some political groups become annoyed about the Tela Agreements and say that the contras should not demobilize, should not leave Honduras, and should continue until there is complete democracy in our country. That is easy for them to say, because they are not risking their skins. They have never risked their skins.

They have never risked their skins. Those [Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) leaders] who are in Miami can easily say that, as well. [Adolfo] Calero and [Enrique] Bermudez can easily say that, too. It is easy for them to order the contras to enter Nicaragua, to attack everything they find in their way, and to stay there. It is easy to give such orders. The contra leaders, however, do not dare to enter Nicaragua. They do not dare to go to the mountains and take up rifles. Instead, they send humble people to take up weapons. They send people, who, out of need, backwardness, and fear, have become involved in counterrevolutionary activities. Many Nicaraguans, including many privates of the Somozist Guard, became involved in such activities out of need, fear, and ignorance.

We presently find that many counterrevolutionaries are peasants. They have become involved in these activities for the reasons mentioned earlier.

It is easy for the Yankees, for the people of COSEP, for the people connected with the newspaper LA PRENSA, and for members of political groups to send Nicaraguan people to kill each other. When all is said and done, only the Nicaraguan peasants, who are instruments of the Nicaraguan counterrevolution, who are defending their right to produce, and who are working in cooperatives and are attacked by the counterrevolutionaries, are being killed on the battlefields. When all is said and done, workers who have to travel from one place to another are the ones being killed. Sometimes those workers, including teachers, are ambushed along the roads. A teacher was recently ambushed in the Nueva Guinea region. She was murdered by the counterrevolutionaries. Mothers who travel to visit their demobilized children are the ones who risk their lives. They risk falling into counterrevolutionary ambushes.

Instead of praising the Tela agreements; instead of urging the contras to lay down their weapons and agree to the peace plan; instead of understanding that the Nicaraguan revolution is being more than generous and magnanimous by not placing any conditions on the return of the counterrevolutionaries to our country, by not beginning trials against them, by not imprisoning them, and by pardoning all their crimes; and instead of telling the contras all these things so that the war will end once and for all, so that peace reigns in our country and so that the youths serving in the Military Patriotic Service [SMP] do not have to risk their lives, those people—with a truly terrorist, cowardly, and cruel attitude—called on the contras to increase their criminal attacks against the people. Those people call on the contras to continue to fight while they are reassured in Managua, in Miami, or traveling to Miami from Managua and back again. [5-second break in reception] are blameworthy.

The media is used to defend and encourage crime against the Nicaraguan people and to encourage the war against the Nicaraguan people. The existing freedom of expression in Nicaragua is being abused. The media are not used responsibly. I am sure that if such abuses take place in countries that they use as examples, if such abuses take place in the United States, those media—a newspaper like the Nicaraguan newspaper LA PRENSA or like some of our radio stations—would cease to exist. If the media defended and encouraged counterrevolutionary activities in those countries, as they do here in Nicaragua, they would cease to exist.

Such abuses cause pain, protests, and uneasiness among the thousands of Nicaraguan mothers and relatives who have children serving in the SMP. Those people want the war to end while the Yankees and the people from LA PRENSA and COSEP and from so-called opposition political parties—rightist parties—continue to nourish the war.

When will this war, which risks our children's lives, end? The Nicaraguan Government is making big efforts to end it. The government signed agreements in Tela. The government released Somozist guards and contras. When will this war promoted by the Yankees and rightist groups end?

Today, when we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the creation of the Sistema Sandinista Television Network, is the best time to urge the Nicaraguan media, before the people and the peasants who are in the war zones—the direct targets of contra attacks—to act responsibly.

Now is the best moment to call upon all those people, the thousands of Nicaraguans who move around within the war zones—health and education workers who are exposed to counterrevolutionary attacks. What better moment than this to say: Gentlemen, gentlemen from COSEP and from LA PRENSA, gentlemen who have radio programs or own radio stations that carry such counterrevolutionary messages, it is time to send out a message with the Nicaraguan people's desire for peace. It is time for you to call upon the contras to accept the peace plan.

Here we all have a challenge—especially you people from COSEP, LA PRENSA, and the political parties—because we are keeping to the deal and working for peace. What are you, members of COSEP, LA PRENSA, and the political parties, doing for peace? If you want to do something for peace, show proof to the people. Simply ask the contras to leave Honduras, to lay down their weapons, and to accept the peace plan. The Nicaraguan people will then have fewer worries, less grief, and less suffering. No more people will be killed by war.

It is easy to send out a message favoring peace. If you have not done so already, are you now willing to send a message for peace? Now is the time. The people will judge you, the people will put you on trial. If you send out a message for peace, the people will judge you in a positive light. If you continue to send out your terrorist messages, total peace will be attained—against the will of the Yankees, against your will, and against the will of the mercenaries who do not accept what we are giving—but you will be condemned for life by the people.

Today, while sharing with you in this studio that has witnessed so many programs, a studio that has seen so much energy released here—all the vitality, all the enthusiasm, all the creativity—we send our salute and recognition to all the comrades of Sistema Sandinista Television, to all of your Nicaraguan brother comrades, to all the followers who watch and listen to you and follow closely all the television programs, and especially to the 36 comrades who have worked continuously for 10 years. It was not easy for you, because media people tend to move around. No matter what work they do, it is hard to get them to settle down. Here we have 36 comrades who have managed to stay put for 10 years, contributing and enriching the work of Sistema Sandinista Television.

Thank you comrades, thank you on behalf of the Nicaraguan people. Thank you on behalf of the FSLN, the Nicaraguan Government, and the revolution. Freedom for the fatherland or death!

Ortega To Attend Nonaligned Summit in Belgrade

PA2608142889 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1200 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Text] President Daniel Ortega yesterday announced that he will attend the ninth summit of nonaligned countries, which will take place in Belgrade, Yugoslavia on 4-7 September.

Ortega advanced that he will request the nonaligned countries' support for the Central American peace accords and the contra demobilization plan that he signed along with his regional counterparts on 7 August.

He added that during his speech, he will defend his government's right to nonalignment and will convey the message of the Sandinist revolution and of developing peoples.

In Yugoslavia, Nicaragua might offer to host the 10th Nonaligned summit, in keeping with the principles of the Sandinist revolution and its government's democratic system.

Ortega: COSEP, News Media 'Irresponsible'

PA2608020889 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish
0039 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has charged that the news media exalt war and are irresponsible. He called on the news media today to act responsibly for the sake of the people. President Ortega vehemently said: Gentlemen of the COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise], LA PRENSA, and radio station owners who carry out antirevolutionary work, the time has come for you to make statements in line with the people's desire for peace.

The Nicaraguan president said that if the COSEP, LA PRENSA, and news media reporters want to make statements for peace, they should invite the counterrevolutionaries to leave Honduras, lay down their weapons, and accept the peace plan; otherwise, the people will judge them.

Coverage of Events, Preparations for Dec Elections

Ortega Recovering in Poll

PA2608131389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1908 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Managua, 24 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—A poll taken by the Nicaraguan Public Opinion Private Institute [Instituto Privado de Opinion Publica Nicaraguense, INOP]

reveals that President Daniel Ortega would be the winner of the February 1990 election if it were held today.

The poll covered a sampling of 1,500 persons, between 16 and 40, in 28 Nicaraguan cities; it favored Daniel Ortega by 26 percent.

The investigation showed that Ortega has recovered his popularity among the Nicaraguan electorate and has increased his advantage by eight points over INOP's last poll, 4 months ago.

INOP, headed by Nicaraguan Sociologist Cirilo Otero, polled 1,500 persons 4 months ago. Only 18 percent said then that they would vote for Ortega if elections were held that week.

Otero reported that INOP initiated the most recent investigation to "know and study Nicaraguan public opinion about the upcoming electoral process" 4 months after its first poll and at the request of Iztani Economic Investigations Center [Centro de Investigaciones Economicas de Iztani], which is linked to the Central American University.

The sampling indicated that 26 percent of the persons polled answered that they would vote for Daniel Ortega for president and a mere 6 percent would vote for Violeta Chamorro, the opposition LA PRENSA newspaper director.

Violeta Chamorro, the widow of Nicaraguan journalist Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, who was murdered by Somozist regime paid assassins on 10 January 1978, is mentioned as one of the four National Opposition Union [UNO] presidential hopefuls. UNO is the main opposition bloc in Nicaragua.

The INOP investigation shows Daniel Ortega as the most popular presidential candidate and as a leader who has even more charisma than his own revolutionary comrades. Ortega is followed in popularity by Nicaraguan Interior Minister Commander Tomas Borge, who scored five points.

A total of 35 percent of the men polled said they would vote for Daniel Ortega, while 38 of the women said they would vote for him.

The sudden change in Nicaraguan public opinion in favor of Ortega drastically changes the Nicaraguan political panorama and gives an advantage to the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] candidate over his opponents, who have neither Ortega's popularity nor the resources of the ruling party.

Sociologist Cirilo Otero told ACAN-EFE that the change in public opinion originates with the strengthening of the Sandinists' propaganda campaign, the goal of which is to "revitalize the social awareness" of the Nicaraguan people.

In addition, over the past few weeks the Managua government has adopted a number of economic and social measures favoring the needy. The measures include the delivery of property certificates to the mothers of heroes and martyrs.

The increase in the popularity of the FSLN, which has been in power for 10 years, is clearly seen in the responses given by the people polled by the pollsters when the latter asked them their opinion about Daniel Ortega's work as president of Nicaragua.

A total of 30 percent of the voters described Ortega's work as "good," 13 percent described it as "excellent," 29 percent described it as "average," 11 percent described it as "bad," and another 11 percent described it as "very bad."

In addition, 31 percent of the people polled said that if mayoral elections were held this week, they would vote for the FSLN candidate.

When asked about the political party for which they would vote, 37 percent of the people polled said they would vote for the FSLN, while 53 percent said they would not vote for the candidate UNO nominates.

According to the poll, 38 percent of the men polled and 58 percent of the women polled did not know what UNO is.

The popularity of Virgilio Godoy, president of the Independent Liberal Party (PLI), one of the names the opposition mentions as a future candidate, went down from four to only two points since the last poll.

Something similar to that happened to Nicolas Bolanos, former president of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise (COSEP), who went from four points down to only one point.

Sociologist Otero concluded by saying that "the data prove that the FSLN is looking like a potential winner of the 25 February 1990 elections."

Nunez on Elections, Foreign Aid

AU2508225289 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU in German 25 Aug 89 p 2

[Interview with Carlos Nunez, president of the National Assembly, by FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU reporter Armin Wertz: "Carlos Nunez: In Case of Election Fraud, We Would Be Facing Intervention in Nicaragua"—date and place not given]

[Text] [Wertz] Comandante, the opposition has sharply criticized the Nicaraguan election law. Will the government take this criticism into account?

[Nunez] This criticism is generally lacking well-founded arguments. Following bilateral talks with the opposition parties, the president compiled a list of the most important problems. They were considered in the reform of the election law.

[Wertz] The opposition says, for example, that the Supreme Election Council is dominated by the Sandinists.

[Nunez] The election council is composed of two Sandinists, two opposition representatives, and a neutral chairman....

[Wertz] ... who was suggested by the Sandinists....

Nunez ... and whose appointment was approved by the entire National Assembly, with two or three exceptions.

[Wertz] The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] has the majority in Parliament.

[Nunez] That is correct; however, that does not mean that the right unanimously voted against the appointment. Most opposition members agreed.

[Wertz] The opposition reproaches you for trying to gain advantages in the election campaign. They say that the FSLN can represent itself on radio and television almost every day, whereas the opposition's electioneering in the electronic media is confined to the last 2 months prior to the elections. Why this restriction?

[Nunez] This reproach is not new; however, it is not correct. Television "Channel two" will resume broadcasting again as of 25 August, and it will be open to all parties. In addition, they can execute contracts with all radio stations. There is no time limit. They only need money—and I assume that they have enough money to be able to pay the fees for the broadcasting time they want to have. In addition to these programs, they have also their newspapers LA GUARDIA, LA PRENSA, and LA CRONICA. I am not sure whether we have advantages.

[Wertz] That applies until 3 December. However, in the hot phase of the election campaign from 4 December through 21 February next year, there will be regimentation.

[Nunez] For this period, the election law prescribes a certain maximum space that a party can claim in the media. However, that applies also to the FSLN. But there is one objection that we cannot dispute: Daniel Ortega, the commander of the revolution, of course appears more often on the television screen. However, being the president of the Republic, he is news. That is so everywhere, but the opposition likes to use it against him.

[Wertz] Another reason for concern is the fact that soldiers can vote anywhere in Nicaragua—including in the barracks where they are possibly exposed to pressure from their superiors.

[Nunez] The election law grants the Armed Forces the right to vote. However, it is not true that the soldiers will vote in their barracks. Like every Nicaraguan citizen,

they have the right to vote in general, equal, free, direct, and secret elections. So, how can superiors exert pressure?

[Wertz] That means that the soldiers vote in the place where they live?

[Nunez] Actually, there is a small problem that we must solve together with the parties. A soldier often is not stationed in the place where he lives. If he votes in his garrison, he influences the election result in this place, whereas his vote is missing in the place where he lives. However, this represents only a problem in local elections.

[Wertz] Meanwhile, opposition members have accused you of violating the Constitution, because you moved up the elections from 4 November, the envisaged time, to 25 February. Would it not have been necessary to amend the Constitution?

[Nunez] The election campaign was agreed on in the framework of the Central American peace plan at the presidential summit in El Salvador in February this year. I think that the right would be very happy if we postponed the elections to November again. It did not expect that we would observe the agreements of El Salvador.

[Wertz] Yet, is the objection correct that the date is not in accordance with the Constitution?

[Nunez] The right was not prepared for this agreement, and now that we carry it out it unleashes an intensive political-ideological war. Historically, it has always been the strong economic groups that decided on Nicaragua's policy. Now they are trying to exploit the difficult economic situation to profit by the dissatisfaction and to illegitimate the election process.

[Wertz] You have accused the opposition and the United States also of illegal practices regarding the financing of parties.

[Nunez] The U.S. Congress has approved two types of aid: a legal one amounting to \$3.5 million, and an illegal one which is allegedly administered by the CIA.

[Wertz] According to the law, half of every foreign aid for a party must be turned over to the Supreme Election Council. However, Washington believes that the election council is Sandinist. The United States wants to avoid financing the FSLN as well.

[Nunez] Our election law says that 50 percent of all aid is determined for the receivers, and 50 percent for the Supreme Election Council. That applies also to donations that the FSLN receives. All donations that the parties receive between 25 August and 3 December go 100 percent to the receiver.

[Wertz] But why then this provision on the strange restriction?

[Nunez] In order to be able to issue the plastic-sealed voter identity cards, we need 4,000 cameras; in addition, we need computers to produce voters registries. We need technical apparatus for the elections. The FRG minister for economic cooperation even demanded this in talks with the Supreme Election Council chairman. The elections will cost \$25 million on the whole; \$11 million we are unable to procure—and in this respect, we would like to be able to count on aid.

[Wertz] We will pass on this request. But why this exception?

[Nunez] The voters, the parties, and the candidates will be registered between 25 August and 3 December. In addition, the law guarantees not only for the election campaign but the parties' full freedom of movement as of 25 August. [sentence as published]

[Wertz] Why does the United States then go this round-about way to pursue illegal practices?

[Nunez] The opposition parties are trying to discredit the FSLN through disinformation, and to spread the opinion that the FSLN is preparing election fraud.

[Wertz] The United States has also constantly pointed out the danger of election fraud.

[Nunez] Numerous foreign representatives will observe events here not only on election day but also during the entire election preparations and during the election campaign. In addition, it would be foolish if—being so close to peace—we were to organize election fraud. That would indeed be crazy, because then we would be facing intervention.

UN Commission Begins Work

PA2708042589 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1200 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] According to UN spokesman Mario Zamorano, the UN mission that is to verify Nicaragua's general elections will officially start to operate 25 August. The mission has been called ONUVEN [U. N. Observer Mission for Verification of Elections in Nicaragua] and is formed by 20 officials, headed by Iqbal Riza. Riza recently met with officials of the Supreme Electoral Council, political parties, the foreign ministry, the National Council of Political Parties, and with Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo. ONUVEN will work in Nicaragua until 28 February 1990. Its activities during the first phase will require more meetings with the different sectors linked to the electoral process and the organizations responsible for providing the best possible conditions for this process. The second phase will be from 4 December 1989 to 20 February 1990 and will have the same number of officials. During this phase, ONUVEN will carry out a growing number of political activities throughout the country. The third phase will include the election process itself.

The Sandinist Government expressly invited the ONUVEN delegation to verify the Nicaraguan election's integrity and it is to present its report to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Honduran Soldiers Prevent Repatriation at Border

PA2708041189 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1200 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Text] Despite the obstacles put up by Honduran soldiers, 13 Nicaraguan refugees living in Honduras were able to return to their homeland yesterday. The Honduran soldiers prevented the return of 160 Nicaraguans who intended to return to their homeland through the Las Piedras and the Murupuchi border posts in Japala, which have been established as the points where the Red Cross will receive the repatriated and those who give up their weapons. The Honduran soldiers at the border area argued they had not been notified of the decision. The soldiers said they were following orders not to allow anyone to pass through these border posts. The soldiers held Jalapa Red Cross member Marcio Rivera under arrest for 24 hours.

Defense Minister H. Ortega Says Contras Fleeing

PA2708180089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1603 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Text] Managua, 27 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Defense Minister General Humberto Ortega, head of the Armed Forces, said that entire contra units have fled toward Honduras and Costa Rica, in what he described as a "step forward in the contra demobilization," the local press reported today.

The Sandinist military leader did not say how many "contras," of an estimated 2,500 total inside Nicaragua, have left for neighboring countries, but he made it clear that the Sandinist troops have orders not to disturb this process.

Ortega said that contacts were made last week between Interior Ministry officers and "contra" heads in the north of Nicaragua to "discuss" in what condition the "contras" will be abandoning their weapons.

One of these meetings was held on 24 August between Lieutenant Bernardo Diaz, head of the Sandinist brigade in Quilali, and Marlon Moreno Espinoza ("Dientillo"), head of a contra platoon, at Los Manchones, Nueva Segovia Department.

The defense minister would not release information about these contacts so as "not to disturb the contacts or jump ahead of events," he explained.

Ortega said that Sandinist troops will guarantee that the "contras" abandon Nicaraguan territory "without being in any danger," in accordance with the agreements signed by the presidents in Tela, Honduras, on 7 August.

Ortega's intention is that the "contras," located either in Honduras or Costa Rica, look for the representatives of the International Support and Verification Commission (CIAV), which was installed on 25 August in New York, to hand over their weapons to them in the demobilization process.

The military head added that it is hoped the CIAV, which is made up of OAS and UN experts, will install themselves in Nicaragua during the next few days.

According to the Tela agreements, the CIAV, created on 25 August, has 3 months to demobilize 12,000 "contras" who are in camps inside Honduras.

Ortega also warned the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) (armed contra) heads that, if the rebels "begin reactivating their indiscriminate attacks, we have the capacity to repel them with all the power at our disposal."

These reports were given by Ortega on 26 August at Villa Sandino, a municipality in the centrally located Chontales Department, 120 km to the northeast of Managua, where he went to decorate several dozen officers and soldiers who have distinguished themselves in combat.

Ortega organized the 50th Tactical Combat Group (ATC) at the same ceremony. Military maneuvers were carried out, which were observed by military attaches from the USSR, the United States, Cuba, Mexico, and Venezuela.

Assembly Secretary on Political Prisoners' Release

PA2708014089 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish
2045 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Managua, 25 Aug (REUTER)—A Nicaraguan official today said that Nicaragua will continue to release political prisoners, but hundreds of them will remain in jail until the contras' demobilization is fully complete.

Rafael Solis, National Assembly secretary, said that "those prisoners will remain in jail until the contras' demobilization is completed in keeping with the accords signed by (President Daniel) Ortega and 20 opposition parties."

Solis did not specify the exact number of prisoners who will remain in detention; he only said that a few hundred who have committed more serious crimes are involved.

Among them are 39 National Guard officers of the Somozist government that was toppled in 1979.

The Nicaraguan president yesterday traveled to Nueva Guinea, about 200 km east of Managua, where he released 179 peasants charged with collaborating with the contras and urged them to "switch from rifles to plows."

Ortega has released 239 political prisoners in less than a week. The government has announced that it will free another 1,000 peasants on 3 September.

"Once the contras have been demobilized, those in Honduras as well as in Nicaragua, only common criminals will remain in jail," Ortega said in Nueva Guinea.

According to the Nicaraguan Government, there are about 2,000 contras in Nicaragua and 6,000 in Honduran camps. However, other estimates show 12,000 in Honduras and 5,000 in Nicaragua.

The Sandinist government claims that there are 1,400 detained counterrevolutionaries. The Red Cross International Committee (CICR) will conduct a census of prisoners next week.

The Interior Ministry reported that the CICR as well as other international human rights organizations will upon request have access to all jails, even those controlled by the State Security General Directorate.

So far, only Americas Watch, which is headquartered in Washington, has accepted this offer.

Contras, Sandinists Talk Demobilization

PA2808014589 Paris AFP in Spanish 2301 GMT
27 Aug 89

[Text] Managua, 27 Aug (AFP)—The expectation of ending 8 years of war in this beleaguered Central American nation was renewed this week when Nicaraguan Army troops met groups of contras who have been operating in the north and south of the country.

General Humberto Ortega, commander of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS], confirmed during a military ceremony held in Chontales, in the country's center, on 25 August, that his troops have been in touch with men of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] and have invited them to lay down their arms.

Ortega declined to give details on the talks with the rebels "so as not to hamper the rapprochement or be ahead of the fulfillment" of the Tela agreements, which were signed by the five Central American presidents and stipulate the demobilization of the contras within 120 days.

Ortega also said an unspecified number of counterrevolutionaries traveled to Honduras and Costa Rica over the past few weeks to inquire about the guarantees that the Tela accords offer to them after they are demobilized.

Nicaraguan papers have said the contras "are fleeing Nicaragua," but that they expect to return later under the protection of the International Support and Verification Commission [CIAV] formed by UN and OAS representatives.

The EPS has been instructed not to stand in the way of contras who are leaving, and to be prepared to meet with contra groups willing to talk and lay down their arms.

The contacts with intermediate-command contra leaders to make it easier for the various groups under their

leadership to lay down their arms are a natural result of negotiations that followed the signing of accords between the government and the RN on 23 March 1987.

At the time, the contacts sponsored by peace commissions consisting of politicians and clergymen led to the demobilization of several thousand rebels.

As at that time, however, results were estimated to be limited in scope as long as the onsite talks were not greenlighted by the contra leaders. According to local papers, the leaders have "threatened rebels with death" should they accept the Sandinist government's offer to discuss guarantees for their demobilization.

Ortega also said that there is "uncertainty and confusion" among the contras because of the Tela accords. He also recalled that Honduras must go ahead and dismantle the contra camps located at the border with Nicaragua.

In view of the imminent dismantling of the contra bases in Honduras, a group of rebels on 24 August contacted the EPS at Los Manchones, Nueva Segovia Department in the northern part of the country, news dispatches have reported.

Troops of Brigade 311, stationed at Quilali and led by Lieutenant Bernardo Diaz, talked in these mountainous areas with contra leaders "El Diente," "Caliman," and "Chisti" about their demobilization.

It was reported that approximately 20 contras, who looked nervous, but willing to have peace, have agreed to meet with the EPS again to resume talks.

According to independent analysts, the rapprochement between the Army and the rebels are an opportunity to end the conflict that has already cost 50,000 lives and has sunk the country into the worst crisis in its history.

Ortega Discusses Canal Feasibility Report

*PA2508132889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1518 GMT 24 Aug 89*

[Text] Managua, 24 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega described as "favorable" a preliminary report by a Japanese technical delegation on the possibility of building a canal that connects the Atlantic and the Pacific.

Asked about studies conducted by a Japanese delegation that visited Nicaragua in March, Ortega last night confirmed to ACAN-EFE that the report is already in the hands of the Sandinist government.

Ortega said that the National Commission for Studies for the Construction of a Canal through Nicaragua [Comision Nacional Por Estudios para la Construcion de un Canal por Nicaragua]—created by the Nicaraguan Government on 10 February, comprised of 11 experts and headed by Nicaraguan Finance Minister William Hopper—will review the report.

ACAN-EFE consulted the Nicaraguan leader about this as he greeted dozens of members of the 19 July Sandinist Youth Movement, the youth organization of the ruling Sandinist National Liberation Front, which commemorated its 10 anniversary on 23 August.

The Sandinist leader, who did not give greater details about the possibility of building a canal through Nicaragua, said: "The report is favorable, but we will have to further work on it to make the project more feasible."

Ortega did not say when the Commission would summon the media to give more information about the Japanese delegation's report.

The canal would be built in southeast Nicaragua, through the San Juan River, which serves as a border with Costa Rica, and Lake Nicaragua, which covers an area of 8,000 square kilometers.

The Japanese delegation was comprised of experts Kozo Yamamoto, Yoshio Nara, Yasuroba Somura, Fujio Chikamoru, and Koichiro Nara.

RN Leader Roberto Ferrey's Arrival Postponed

*PA2608015989 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0021 GMT
26 Aug 89*

[Text] Managua, 25 Aug (DPA)—According to Nicaraguan political opposition leaders, the return of a group of 11 Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] leaders and activists headed by Roberto Ferrey, who were scheduled to arrive in Nicaragua today, was postponed until next week.

Adan Fletes, leader of the Nicaraguan Democratic Party of National Confidence (PDC), said that Ferrey, who belongs to the RN, was scheduled to arrive in Nicaragua on board a private flight coming from Guatemala. Fletes added that because of a temporary closing of the Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport in Managua, due to security reasons, Ferrey could not come.

Ferrey will join the National Opposition Union (UNO), which is composed of 12 political parties. There is no information as to which specific UNO party Ferrey will join when he arrives in Nicaragua.

According to Fletes, Ferrey will arrive in Nicaragua on Tuesday, 29 August.

Alfredo Cesar, another RN leader, arrived in Nicaragua 2 months ago to participate in the election campaign.

UNO Adopts Official Governing Platform

*PA2608230989 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish
25 Aug 89 pp 1, 8*

[Article by Ana Maria Ruiz]

[Text] At 1745 in the improvised meeting room of the UNO [National Opposition Union], Roberto Urroz, who was the coordinator, said: "Gentlemen, we now have a government plan."

The leaders of the 14 political parties participating in the meeting applauded emotionally because it marked the birth of a unique historic government plan. It is unique, because all ideologies were included in this government plan for the country, which is not rightist, leftist, or centrist. It is "a progressive plan for national development," according to its authors.

One characteristic makes the UNO government plan extraordinarily democratic. All points and each word were unanimously approved by the 14 political parties which compose the national civic opposition.

Populist-Humanist Government

It is also a populist government plan with an emphasis on workers, with decent salaries for each worker, with emphasis on the fair ownership of land by the peasants, and with a desire to conduct an agrarian reform process that corrects the mistakes made by the Sandinists.

Regarding the proclamations for democracy and social justice, national reconciliation, and a civilian, republican, democratic, and representative government, the UNO government platform intends to carry out a new revolution in Nicaragua, a democratic and national revolution.

The first goal is to forge and consolidate a worthy and long lasting peace for Nicaraguans.

In addition, the UNO platform is one of high concern for humankind, and the moral and emotionally affected population in Nicaragua, a population subject to long years of sacrifice such as the war, the thousands of killed and wounded, inflation, economic limitations, deterioration in the standards of living, separation of families, and other particularly sensitive aspects of our society.

For The Youth

Youth are a priority in the government platform. The government of the opposition will establish ways to offer jobs, education, land, sports, arts, psychiatric, moral, and intellectual recovery programs, and will welcome those who have been demobilized.

Concerning enterprises, the formula of the new plan is freedom and financing for the cooperatives and the private sector enterprises to promote their growth alongside the state enterprises.

The Atlantic Coast

Regarding the Atlantic coast, the UNO platform is concerned about a "government of national salvation." It is also concerned about the underdevelopment conditions, dire poverty, abandonment, and traditional discrimination prevailing in this zone and the damage caused by the October 1988 hurricane, which left the main Atlantic villages semi-destroyed.

The priorities for the Atlantic coast include improving communications and promoting respect for the culture, traditions, rights, and policies inherent to the region.

According to the UNO platform, Nicaragua will be a sovereign state that will try to establish relations with all nations in the world. It will join the Central American economic integration, a Central American parliament, and a Central American court of justice. It will advocate full compliance with the Esquipulas II document and full respect for the rights of mankind recognized at the international level.

Nicaragua Will Be a Republic Again

In the domestic aspect, a constitution should be in effect in Nicaragua, with the amendments requested on 4 November 1987 by the 14 political parties, a constitution establishing a civilian and republican regime.

Nicaragua will again be a republic when the opposition takes over power. This power shall be divided into four branches: the legislative, the executive, the judicial, and the electoral branch of the republican states [estados republicanos]. It will be a power that for the first time in the history of Nicaragua will not concentrate excessive power with the president. It will prohibit reelection or election of relatives of the president up to the fourth degree removed of blood relationship. It will be a power that establishes a difference between the state and the nation and the ruling party.

There will be a national army in Nicaragua with no power or political influence. There will also be a civilian police corps. The members of these two military corps will not be able to participate in politics. The military patriotic service will be abolished.

Justice and Good Administration

There will be an effective judicial branch that will be assisted by an attorney general for human rights; there will also be a constitutional guarantees tribunal. The Electoral Law, the Identity Card Law, municipal laws, the Emergency Law, the Amparo Law, and the Political Parties law—will all be rewritten.

The main element in public administration is honesty, and in order to protect it a civil service law will be drafted. This will ensure the future of employees according to seniority and efficiency at work. State workers will no longer be compelled to bow to the ideas of the ruling party. An administration that takes into account these human elements seeks to be efficient. It will begin by giving full importance to municipalities.

Urgent Economic Measures

Urgent measures have been set in the economic field to eliminate all the shortcomings and flaws caused by government inefficiency:

A public budget, no more secret economic measures, control of inflation, open information about our foreign

debt so as to be able to address the issue adequately, military and bureaucratic cost reduction, and an increase in investments in all fields so as to allow the country to produce export and consumer goods.

To fully use our national resources—starting by increasing our food production—Nicaragua, under a new government, will concern itself with providing a transportation network, will ensure that private property will be respected, will maintain Decree No 3 and what was confiscated based on this decree, and will try to return and compensate for what was confiscated based on concepts other than the ones in the mentioned decree.

Free Trade

Free commerce from the government's exclusive administration, try to eliminate excessive taxes, look for balanced interest rates that will benefit production and producers, promote industry, and approve a foreign investment law.

With such conditions, a just labor law will be issued that will allow union freedom and provide workers with training programs. These measures will allow workers to reach agreements with management about their participation in the social and economic capital of each firm. Each case is to be dealt with separately.

Food for People

The government program contains all the labor victories that have been achieved historically by Nicaraguans, including those related to wages, health, and educational plans.

Also Included

Pensions, retirement, programs for women and infants, and programs to promote the return of professionals and technicians who have left Nicaragua.

A new constitution will be issued that will contain the 17 reforms demanded by the UNO at the National Dialogue and that the Sandinist government rejected systematically. The new constitution will contain new democratic principles.

Nicaraguans' human rights will be totally respected.

A national salvation government will be installed and its mission will be "to lead the country on the road to an authentic national democratic revolution that will guarantee political and social pluralism, independence so as to confront the hegemonic interests of world powers, and a social market economy that will allow firms—private, state, cooperative, and mixed—to function concurrently.

"The government will no longer have exclusive authority over matters of domestic and foreign trade and the free hiring of workers above the minimum wage will be guaranteed."

The new government will maintain the confiscation of property as carried out according to Decree No 3 (those that adversely affected the Somoza family as well as soldiers and officers of the former regime who have left the country), although some cases that merit it may be reviewed.

As for the "violation of property belonging to private individuals by means of confiscations, expropriations, and land invasions and interventions that are illegal or that are based on laws that violate human rights, these may be reviewed at the request of the persons adversely affected who may want the return of their property or compensation, whenever possible."

The peasants who occupied land with agrarian reform titles will be given title deeds. Squatters will be subject to agrarian reform laws. The verdicts of the courts shall be respected and the legitimate owners of the lands, who were adversely affected, shall be compensated. Peasant families, who may have been stripped of their lands, will receive their farms back or will be compensated with others. Peasants without lands will receive government lands.

These are the main aspects of the UNO government plan unanimously approved on 24 August by the 14 political parties.

Human Rights Leader Reacts to Government Claims

PA2808004289 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish
1130 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Telephone interview with Lino Hernandez, director of the Permanent Human Rights Commission, by unidentified announcer—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] You have heard the statement by Commander Tomas Borge Martinez refuting reports by the Permanent Human Rights Commission. Commander Borge said that he would be willing to change his name if someone can prove that there are more than 1,500 contra prisoners in Nicaragua. Commander Borge said that he would even be willing to be called Roque Santero. He denied that there are more than 1,500 political prisoners in Nicaragua. We would like to ask Lino Hernandez if the Permanent Human Rights Commission sticks to the figures it has reported, and if so, on what basis? We will hear Lino Hernandez, director of the Permanent Human Rights Commission. Go ahead.

[Hernandez] We have heard the statement by Tomas Borge, who, in absolute disrespect for human dignity, has assumed an arrogant position by using epithets and trying to look like the good guy in a soap opera being watched by our people, by our citizens. I believe that he tried to evade the subject concerning the number of prisoners and also avoided talking about international commitment to release these prisoners through a broad and total amnesty.

I would like to make the following proposal to Commander Tomas Borge: He has invited the International Red Cross and other international organizations to visit [Nicaraguan] centers, including ones that those organizations could not visit before. We must recall that over the past few years, the so-called State Security Operational Centers, where most of the torture takes place and where more human rights are violated, have been closed to international organizations, including the International Red Cross, which for 10 years has been denied permission to visit those jails. The information gathered by the International Red Cross in those jails is confidential, but nevertheless they are not allowed to visit the State Security jails.

Since last year, we have offered a proposal by the cardinal [Miguel Obando y Bravo] and Amnesty International. If there are 1,440 prisoners as Commander Borge said, a list of names should be published in BARRICADA and EL NUEVO DIARIO. We will compare it with our own lists so that people can know who is who.

In 1987, the International Red Cross conducted a study and reported that there were 1,535 prisoners. After that, we received reports from the jails on prisoners from various regions who were brought to Managua who said that they had been put together with common criminals so that the Red Cross would count them as regular prisoners during the census.

I think that this proposal is more practical and direct. Instead of inviting international organizations that are not aware of our reality, that have not been in all the jails of our country, a census should be carried out based on the lists they receive. The government should publish their lists and we will publish our lists.

In addition, Borge gave the Nicaraguan Permanent Human Rights Commission great authority by saying that all the governments and organizations in Europe and other countries have questioned them about our lies when they ask for help. He said that we have a different truth with regard to human rights in Nicaragua. We must publicly say that our people know how we work and that we do not invent figures.

According to our work procedures, we do not admit reports that are not supported by the signatures of those individuals making the reports, which should be duly certified by attorneys. In addition, the reports must have the signatures, the fingerprints, the address, and if possible some evidence of identity. Moreover, the situation and deterioration of human rights in Nicaragua is so obvious that all of us Nicaraguans are aware of it. Foreigners and governments who have representatives here—through their embassies—are also aware of this. Amnesty International reports clearly describe the torture suffered by prisoners at the state security prisons. America's Watch—which for a long time was in some ways supporting the government—began reporting last year the assassinations of peasants by state security

officials. The State Security chiefs and the highest ranking national authorities, like Commander Borge himself, are fully aware of this situation.

Among the facts that speak for themselves is what Commander Borge did to Jose Castillo Ocejo last year. Borge himself took Castillo Ocejo to his house, beat him, and then sent him away. The fact a minister acts this way in any country, and nothing happens and no investigations are conducted, says a lot about the human rights situation in the country. It is true that our organization has a high degree of credibility, which it has gained since the time of Somoza, when we defended Commander Tomas Borge himself when he was in prison. Borge's statements seem to indicate that Commander Tomas Borge has forgotten about that. We must note that although we have taken the banner of political prisoners in Nicaragua as one of the main points of the commitment Commander [Daniel] Ortega signed in Guatemala, the human rights situation is not limited just to political prisoners. It also refers to the situation of [words indistinct] the political persecution, and the confiscation of property. This depicts a very sad situation with regard to human rights matters [10 second break in reception] the organizations are following up on such cases. Therefore, reality speaks for itself in Nicaragua concerning human rights.

[Announcer] Dr Hernandez, we would like to know if you hold to the figure of the 6,000 political prisoners or if you leave this figure in reserve for further investigations?

[Hernandez] We think our figures are rather conservative. They are estimates based on trials that resulted in a considerable number of prisoners being sentenced before the Anti-Somozist People's Tribunals were established. These tribunals sentenced approximately 3,000 prisoners. Many more were sentenced after that. Hundreds and perhaps thousands of peasants accused of being collaborators and informers against state security are being tried, particularly in the 5th Region. We are preparing our own lists of names with the approval of the relatives of these prisoners. Commanders Borge and Daniel Ortega said in July this year that there were approximately 3,000 prisoners. In February, they said there were little more than 2,000 prisoners. Now Commander Borge says there are only 1,440 prisoners. He has said he would change his name if we prove to him he is wrong. We do not know about this. We insist, however, that a list of the prisoners should be published. Commander Ortega told me twice in 1986 that... [changes thought] When Alberto Saborio and I were released from prison, U.S. Congressman (?Tom Harkin) said Commander Ortega had said there were 10,000 prisoners who would be amnestied. In other words, confusion has been created by the figures released by the government.

The solution for such confusion is to publish a list of prisoners. We should also be allowed to visit the prisons. The government now poses as champion of human rights

in the eyes of international organizations saying that all prisons are open to visits. The truth, however, is that the Nicaraguan state prisons are tightly closed to all international human rights organizations. We think the most important thing is to immediately release all of these political prisoners. Only with an amnesty could the government wash their hands. In this way, Commander Borge would not have to change his name. Maybe he wants to change it because of his shame after his visit to Germany and other European countries, where he was confronted with all the terrible abuses the ministry he leads has perpetrated.

Panama

U.S. Army Accused of Detaining Citizens

PA2508195089 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 24 Aug 89 p 1

[Text] Arraijan Mayor Alberto de Santis reported yesterday to LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA that Panamanians bound for Veracruz are being detained at the last Howard Air Force Base checkpoint.

De Santis complained that U.S. Army South soldiers at that checkpoint have detained personnel from his office when traveling to Veracruz, which De Santis describes as an unjust and arbitrary act.

De Santis said that the North Americans have a list of people that U.S. security forces consider undesirable.

De Santis also reported that Black Hawk helicopters and fighter planes continue to fly low over Arraijan, Veracruz, Bique, Nuevo Emperador, and other communities. This causes nervousness and sleeping difficulties among the residents of these communities.

De Santis said that the Arraijan municipality plans to build a road to join Veracruz and Bique, bypassing the Army South checkpoints.

FDP Spokesman: Forces on 'State of Alert'

PA2508125289 Paris AFP in Spanish 0649 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Panama City, 24 Aug (AFP)—The Panama Defense Forces (FDP), which has 12,000 men, is on a "state of alert" in view of a possible U.S. military intervention before 1 September, Major Edgardo Lopez Grimaldo, FDP spokesman, has announced.

The FDP spokesman stated today that the United States is supporting clandestine radio broadcasts and reports about drug trafficking in Panama "to create a climate of chaos as a prelude to an armed invasion."

Local radio stations, Lopez Grimaldo said, have been interfered with by clandestine broadcasts calling on the FDP to rebel against FDP Commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

On 1 September, Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma must transfer power to a new president, according to the constitution. However, the annulment of last 7 May's elections means there will be a political vacuum, according to the president.

Nonetheless, Solis Palma stated this week that one of the formulas being considered to fill this "vacuum" is to prolong his term in office.

'Imminent' U.S. Intervention

PA2608190789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Aug 89

[By Antonio Martinez]

[Text] Panama City, 26 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—The Panamanian regime is mobilizing troops and militarily organizing public employees to face an "imminent" U.S. armed intervention in the wake of the failure of the OAS mediation effort and a new atmosphere created by the "drug trafficking war" in Colombia.

Panama's Radio Nacional (state-owned) this weekend reported that intervention is "imminent," while the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), the main government party, said that "the fatherland is in danger."

According to diplomats accredited in Panama, the possibility of intervention, which Washington has not ruled out, is more likely now because of the situation created by the assassination of Colombia's presidential candidate Luis Carlos Galan.

Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma himself, in a letter to his Colombian counterpart Virgilio Barco on 24 August in which he denied that the government has provided refuge for the "drug lords," states that recent violent events in the neighboring country are "being used by third parties to continue their aggression against us."

Diplomats point out that the United States, over the past few days, has redoubled its accusations concerning the alleged links to drug trafficking of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Panama Defense Forces (FDP) and "strongman" of Panama since 1983.

U.S. President George Bush has said that he also does not rule out an operation to "capture" Noriega and to turn him over to U.S. courts where suits have been filed against him.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger said that "Gen Noriega has turned Panama into a refuge for drug traffickers, money laundering, and cocaine transshipment" during the most recent OAS meeting on 24 August.

According to Eagleburger, that is an "aggression" against the entire hemisphere "as clear an aggression as was

Hitler's invasion of Poland 50 years ago. It is an aggression against all of us and we will have to put an end to it someday."

FDP spokesman Major Edgardo Lopez Grimaldo said that he does not rule out "a suicidal and desperate action" by the U.S. Army, because of Panama's "victory" at the OAS, which in his opinion, is "humiliating for the United States."

Major Grimaldo told ACAN-EFE: "This could be an armed military or terrorist action."

Foreign diplomats have also pointed out Eagleburger's remark that if a transition government that includes the opposition is not formed in Panama on 1 September, "Noriega will have declared himself an outlaw in the eyes of the world and we should deal with him accordingly."

New recruits of the so-called Dignity Battalions, militiamen armed by the Defense Forces commanded by Noriega, train daily in the capital's outskirts to face eventual intervention.

"Defense committees," most of which are formed by public employees, are also getting intensive military training.

CRITICA, a progovernment paper, today carries a front-page headline saying: "Public Officials Ready To Defend the Homeland." In the text, the paper added that state workers "are in the physical fitness stage and are being trained in the use of light arms. In addition, personnel are being assigned to various tasks."

The number of people comprising the Dignity Battalions and the Defense Committees has not been disclosed. Their number would be added to the 15,000 FDP members.

CRITICA added: "The enemy is planning to carry out actions over the next few days to subvert public order and create confusion and violence."

The U.S. Armed Forces Southern Command, headquartered with 12,000 men in Panama, conducted continual and impressive military exercises over the past few months, which provoked numerous incidents and almost led the two armies to a confrontation.

Several of the U.S. military exercises, which included movements of troops, armored personnel carriers, helicopters, planes, and naval units in unprecedented numbers, took place in the capital's outskirts, very close to where Noriega has the offices he uses most often.

Tension has increased constantly since the 7 May elections were annulled on 10 May, which the opposition claims it won, and as 1 September draws near, when the authorities chosen in the elections should be sworn in.

A leading Panamanian official told ACAN-EFE that officials at public offices have been instructed to remain on alert until 1 September.

Solis Palma on New Government, U.S. Ties

PA2708002189 Panama City Cadena Exitosa in Spanish 2211 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Report by Carlos Anel Cordero; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Panamanian Presidency, has said that in the wake of the OAS meetings, there is every indication that the United States will maintain the same position it has held to date regarding its relations with Panama.

[Solis] "I believe that on 31 August, exact information will be released to all of you and to the entire world. Whatever decision is made, whatever decision is announced, will be directed at responding to the U.S. aggression and at resolving the country's main problems within the framework of that response. That will be the new government's mission."

Asked about the possibility that the Venezuelan Government will break off diplomatic relations with Panama, the minister in charge of the Presidency said reports of this are mere speculation, and that no official information is available on the subject.

[Solis] "So far, there is no official information in this regard, and everything heard so far seems to be speculation. We are not going to jump the gun with regard to making a decision until a definite official course of action is taken.

[Unidentified reporter] "Nevertheless, the National Information System [SNI] issued a resolution this afternoon accusing the Venezuelan Government of allying itself with the United States against Panama.

[Solis] "I will call the SNI to find out if it has some basis for saying this, but at least at the level of the Presidency, no information had been received as of this afternoon.

[Second unidentified reporter] "In the wake of the OAS resolution, will the United States return to Panama the assets that it has withheld?

[Solis] "Well, as you know, according to the OAS resolution, and in line with international justice, those assets should have been returned without the need for any resolution. However, you have heard statements made by the U.S. ambassador to the OAS, and it would seem that the United States has not reached a decision in favor of justice and law, but will maintain its arrogant, abusive position against Panama."

The president said the U.S. refusal to accept the person proposed by Panama to occupy the post of canal administrator could endanger the functioning of the waterway.

[Solis] "It isn't that any direct obstacles have been placed in the way; the United States has simply said that it will not recognize him. You remember the speech made by the Venezuelan foreign minister, who said that U.S. acceptance of the canal administrator designated by Panama was in danger because Panama does not have a democratic government. This interpretation is completely out of line and without foundation in the law, and therefore is false. I believe, moreover, that this constitutes a danger to the functioning of the canal, because any authority placed there without a Panamanian administrator in control [changes thought], any such action will be illegal, will lack any legal basis.

"In addition, we must add that the individual involved is a Panamanian of great merit, Fito [Gabriel] Altamirano Duque. In addition to all the well-deserved praise of him stated by Dr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, we have to add other accomplishments such as the concrete highway between Divisa and Las Tablas, which I regrettably forgot to mention in Los Santos, and which I believe is another of the great tasks and accomplishments to be attributed to this distinguished Panamanian, of whom I have the best memories and whom I hold in the highest esteem. However, the United States does not consider a Panamanian to be worthy unless he submits to U.S. whims and designs.

[Second unidentified reporter] "What will be the characteristics of the members of the new government?"

[Solis] "A high level of patriotism, a determination to fight for the country, a determination to resist and to carry Panama forward, as a country that has played a dignified role that has earned it great prestige within the United Nations. The adversity which some Panamanians are now facing will be compensated for in national dignity, because dignity is also food and [words indistinct]."

University Students Front Pickets U.S. Embassy

PA2508144289 Panama City Circuito RPC Television
in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] University students who are members of the FER-29 [Revolutionary Students Front] picketed the U.S. Embassy this morning. The demonstrators protested against the constant military maneuvers conducted by the U.S. Southern Command, which according to them, is constantly violating the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, and also against U.S. Government's economic aggression against Panama.

The FER-29 students pointed out that the U.S. Army's warmongering and interventionist actions are intensifying and thus are posing a threat to the lives and safety of all Panamanians.

Minister Ritter's OAS Speech Criticizes U.S.

PA2508170089 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish
25 Aug 89 p 2

[Report by Euclides M. Corro R.]

[Text] Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter, speaking at the OAS plenum on 24 August, warned of "the dangerous indifference with which the economic measures and military threats against Panama are mentioned. The fact that these measures and threats are repeated and directed against a country with whose leaders it is possible to disagree makes them all violate the OAS Charter and international law even more."

Ritter asked his fellow foreign ministers of the OAS member countries "whether ignoring a conflict between two member countries to focus attention on the domestic problems of one of them is consistent with the organization's principles."

He based this assertion on the premise that the 21st Consultative Meeting of Foreign Ministers "was convened to analyze the Panamanian crisis in its international context. However, this aspect has received little attention—and I am not referring to the OAS mission that visited Panama."

The minister also said: "While common incidents in our countries are magnified, the abuses and humiliations against Panamanians by the army that has invaded my country are minimized."

CRITICA regards Ritter's speech as interesting and has thereby reproduced it in full:

A special meeting of friendly diplomats has concluded in which three foreign ministers and the OAS secretary general contributed their great experience, intelligence, and, above all, goodwill to help Panamanians reach the agreements that could lead to a lasting solution of the lengthy political crisis and of the country's steady impoverishment as the result of the terrible economic and military aggression unleashed by the United States against my country.

As a Panamanian and as a Latin American, I praise the mediating efforts of those who have no interest other than seeing harmony reign in Panama. Unfortunately, they have had to witness the shameful and deplorable actions of the U.S. Army, which, with its intimidating exercises and by arrogantly humiliating the civilian population, has prevented Panamanians from perpetuating a suitable climate for a dialogue that the delegation succeeded in initiating only with great effort. This is the true nature of the drama in my country, which I must present clearly. While daily incidents in our countries are magnified, the abuses and the outrages committed against Panamanians by the army that has invaded my country are minimized. While the public is overwhelmed by the outcome of the elections held 3 months ago and

later annulled, the terrible reality of a country impoverished by illegal and arbitrary unilateral economic measures imposed more than 17 months ago is avoided. While willingness to comply with the canal treaties is reiterated, these treaties are violated so flagrantly that a considerable portion of what was signed in this very room is now dead.

I want to call your attention to the fact that in 130 days, on 1 January 1990, one of the dearest achievements of the Panamanian people—the installation of a Panamanian as administrator of the canal—will be ignored.

My country's Legislative Assembly, which was elected by the people and whose legitimacy has not been questioned by anyone, established a procedure for selecting a person for the post of canal administrator and proposed a Panamanian who has proven his patriotism and has an unblemished record: Tomas Gabriel Altamirano Duque. An arrogant refusal to even consider the proposal was the answer Panama received. If the U.S. Government persists in this flagrant violation of the commitment it acquired in 1977, the Panama Canal will not have an administrator as of 1 January 1990.

It is necessary to point this out because this 21st Meeting of Foreign Ministers was convened to analyze the international context of the Panamanian crisis. However, this aspect has been given very little attention—and I am not referring to the OAS mission that visited Panama.

I would like for the foreign ministers who know of deadlines, rulings, and procedures of the Panamanian Constitution to tell us if violations of the treaty and of the territorial integrity of Panama have been given the importance given to the other issues.

I ask the foreign ministers if the act of ignoring a conflict between two state members to give attention only to the domestic problems of one of the states is in line with the principles of this organization.

To leave no room for misunderstandings, I want to reiterate that we Panamanians are very grateful for all the efforts made to produce a dialogue that is still going on to conciliate the conflicting positions of political forces. However, it is my duty to state that principles that are very important to this organization and that are the spirit of this organization are at stake today. As an example, I want to point to the dangerous indifference with which economic measures and military threats are being discussed. The fact that these measures and these threats are happening repeatedly, as if they were a normal way of life, and that they are directed against a country with whose government there may be disagreement, does not make these actions violate the OAS Charter and international law any less.

Returns From Meeting

PA2708133589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
0503 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Text] Panama City, 26 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Ritter said last night in Panama that every Latin American country and the world would reject "in the strongest terms" any U.S. military intervention in this country.

"The consensus or unanimous view of the foreign ministers of the Americas and the world is that they would not tolerate it if the United States militarily intervened in Panama," Ritter noted.

The Panamanian foreign minister arrived in the country last night from the United States where he attended, together with a government delegation, an OAS consultation meeting that concluded the organization's mediation effort in Panama's political crisis following the annulment of the May elections.

Ritter added that the final declaration issued by Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono "sealed a significant phase in Panama's political life, since it ended the OAS-sponsored dialogue among the government, the military, and the opposition to reach a national agreement on 1 September.

In this respect, when asked about the government's plans for that date, Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma told ACAN-EFE that "on 1 September we will meet any situation that may arise. Everything that is being done on the matter is being kept secret."

Ritter, who was met at the airport by Solis Palma, added that "what will happen next week in Panama is a big unknown, and, believe me, I am among those Panamanians who do not know what the ending will be."

According to the Panamanian Constitution, the authorities elected at the polls the first Sunday of May should take office on 1 September; that is, 4 months after the official results of the elections were reported.

Because of Panama's political situation at the beginning of September and the "imminent U.S. military intervention in this country," Ritter noted, "we went to the OAS to broaden our framework of protection."

The minister stressed: "The U.S. Government has gone out of its way to term U.S. military intervention in what they call the Panamanian problem as possible, probable, or an option."

Ritter added: "At international organizations I have denounced the imminent U.S. military intervention, with the aggravating factor that this is not an intervention from the outside but an intervention from inside, since in practice they have already invaded us."

"Panama is a country which has been invaded by the United States. Panama is a nation in which the U.S.

military forces have arbitrarily taken over our towns, drinking water plants, highways, hospitals, and court houses," Ritter stated.

Meanwhile, the Panamanian regime is mobilizing its troops and militarily organizing the public work force in light of the possibility of an "imminent" armed U.S. intervention at the conclusion of the OAS mediation bid in Panama's political crisis.

In addition, in order to face a possible military intervention, the government is calling on the civilian population to voluntarily join the so-called "Dignity Battalions" that are trained and armed by the Panama Defense Forces led by General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Duque Blames Opposition for Talks Failure

PA2808011389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
2248 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Text] Panama City, 27 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Carlos Duque, president of the (pro-government) Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD], today publicly blamed the Panamanian opposition for the failure of the negotiations promoted by the OAS to overcome the crisis in Panama.

In closing a meeting of Latin American businessmen, Duque affirmed that the leaders of the Panamanian opposition participated in the dialogue with the military, the government, and the pro-government parties, but "without the intention of finding a solution."

The negotiations, which ended last Monday, were mediated by an OAS delegation comprised of OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares and the foreign ministers of Ecuador, Guatemala, and Trinidad and Tobago—Diego Cordovez, Mario Palencia, and Sahadeo Basdeo, respectively.

According to Duque, the PRD participated in the dialogue because it believes it is "necessary" to form a government of "broad participation," a proposal that the leaders of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADOC] have ignored.

Duque noted: "In their stubbornness the ADOC representatives irrationally rejected the proposal of the executive branch to form part of a government of broad participation that would call elections within a year and that would establish the role that the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] are to play in the country's political life."

Duque also criticized the United States, accusing it of having inflicted on the Panamanian economy losses amounting to more than \$2 billion and of mounting an international campaign to discredit FDP Commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

The politician noted that Panama's economic activities have fallen approximately 19 percent and the gross

national product more than 21 percent, the unemployment rate has doubled, and fiscal revenues have been cut in half.

According to the PRD president, the way U.S. officials openly talk about military intervention in Panama and U.S. President George Bush threatens to kidnap Noriega is "unbelievable" and "extremely illegal."

Duque, who was continuously interrupted by applause from the Latin American businessmen, said that what the United States wants "is to impose its military bases in Panama beyond the year 2000," when Panama must exercise its sovereignty over all Panamanian territory, based on the canal treaty signed by the governments of the two countries.

Duque, a former presidential candidate, accused the United States of violating the treaties, something that "goes against Latin American interests, because tolls are being unilaterally increased by the United States, which ignores Panama's objections."

Duque said that to conceal its real objective and to have a pretext for its actions, the United States has been wielding "charges about alleged involvement of General Manuel Antonio Noriega in drug trafficking, charges in support of which no evidence has been produced. It is a pretext that is immoral and absurd because it is unfounded." Duque is considered to be a man trusted by the general.

The politician rejected the possibility of removing Noriega "only to please Washington." He said that General Noriega "has been offered millions" by the U.S. Government and that if he had not rejected it, "today he would be a wealthy man who enjoys security."

About 150 businessmen from Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, the Dominican Republic, and Venezuela participated in the meeting promoted by the PRD. They all stated their support for Panamanian private enterprise.

Escobar Defense of Noriega at OAS Praised

PA2608044689 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish
25 Aug 89 p 4

[Editorial: "The Country's Tribune"]

[Text] His thundering voice reverberated in the Western Hemisphere's most important forum and lashed out at those who justify the infamy, unleashing the righteous fury of truth without surrendering or allowing a truce.

The emphatic words of Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, the country's whip, unmercifully lashed the unbelievable debauchery of those slimy souls who from a little corner of the Capitol in Washington, spew out the venom of their slander against a superior human being, although he is out of the reach of the spittle of their hate. Latin American eloquence, appropriately presented by Dr

Escobar Bethancourt, conquered the unconquerable summit with this exemplary display of honest oratory. His honest words moved consciences, pulverized aggressive cretinism, and drowned the lie with an ocean of truth.

The OAS will never forget that pinnacle of glory in the life of America because, at that forum, the truth about Manuel Antonio Noriega erupted like a volcano, as did the truth about a nation that is sick of humiliations and the truth about a people who only want to live with dignity and in peace, freedom, and sovereignty.

That moment will also be unforgettable because very rarely in the world's history has such an accurate picture been painted of the real, unvarnished nature of the voracious colossus and the excessive, unquenchable rancor that is at the core of Washington's land-grabbing policy.

The Panamanian tribune's tempestuous voice roared in the quiet halls of inter-American diplomacy. It broke the archaic mold and reached Latin America's soul through straight talk that did not contain unneeded rhetoric or incomprehensible parables.

There, his unaffected, firm, heartfelt, resounding words did not allow a single idea to get away or his forceful eloquence to escape him. Slowly, like a dagger tearing a veil, the history of horrors started to reveal its dark secrets to show the American Continent the true dimension of Panama's suffering, the magnitude of its courage, and the uncertainty of its future.

With the perfect luminosity of a Rembrandt chiaroscuro, the tumultuous Panamanian crisis gushed from the intellectual brush that was moved by patriot Escobar's soul onto a spotless canvas until the complete truth was captured in a perfect painting. The strong protest that rumbled like thunder and asked for proof of the ignominious charges will never be answered. Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, criminal lawyer and patriot, knows better than anyone else what proof is; and, because of this, he knows what slander is. Manuel Antonio Noriega does not have to be defended. History will rank him as the illustrious Latin American that he is, alongside the greatest men of our continent. But, it was a heck of a defense! It is Latin America's time to reconquer the Bolivarian dream by supporting Panama's truth against the lies and aggression that threatened to wipe our country from the American map.

OAS Resolution Termed 'Disappointing'

PA2608150189 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Interview with former Electoral Tribunal President Cesar Quintero by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Quintero] I think the resolution issued by the 21st consultative meeting of the OAS foreign ministers

was disappointing to all objective observers from the American continent. After so much time, after so many days, after so many meetings—all a waste of time—it issues a resolution that does not say a thing and does not reach a single conclusion. Instead, it issued a very flimsy resolution that Panamanian problems must be solved by Panamanians, at least according to remarks by one of the foreign ministers. If that is so, why did they get involved to begin with? I can say that this resolution is completely inefficient and flimsy and, therefore, disappointing.

[Reporter] Based on your experience, what will happen in Panama after 1 September.

[Quintero] A solution will have to be reached. Unfortunately, I see no Constitutional solution. The solution reached, whether a government junta, an extension of duties, or the appointment of a minister in charge of the presidency, will no doubt violate the Constitution. All these solutions contradict the Constitution. However, it seems the OAS gentlemen do not care about this. They always want to stay in the good graces of the existing government, no matter what sort of government it is. They do not care about institutions and the stability of countries. All they care about is staying in the good graces of existing governments.

Electoral Tribunal President on Elections, OAS

PA2708124689 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Interview with Yolanda Pulice de Rodriguez, magistrate president of the Panamanian Electoral Tribunal (TEP), by unidentified reporter on 24 August; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Rodriguez] The Electoral Code has specific articles. When the decree annulling the elections was issued, it applied specifically to the events that were occurring in the country. There was violence nationwide, in all the provinces, so we had to implement the article which applied to the chaos, violence, and aggression that existed in our country and to the notorious intervention by foreigners. Therefore, the TEP based its actions on that Electoral Code, which does not provide for setting a date for new elections.

[Reporter] Could the TEP call for new elections in any given situation?

[Rodriguez] No, the TEP's constitutional function is to schedule elections, but since the elections have been annulled it is now up to the Executive Branch to set a new date. And this is practically impossible in view of the country's economic situation and the ongoing aggression. Moreover, what happened at the OAS last night clearly indicates what steps are to come in electoral matters in our country and in the development and preservation of democracy.

ADOC's Arias Calderon on OAS Position

PA2608021489 Panama City Cadena Exitosa
in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Report by Maribel del Carmen Saldana Ortiz]

[Text] Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon, former vice presidential candidate of the ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] in the past elections, said on his return from Washington that within the context of the paralyzation of the OAS, there was something positive: For the first time, a new visit to Panama by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission has been proposed. Arias Calderon also said that the paralyzation of the OAS in the face of the Panamanian crisis allows other countries to react independently. Let us listen:

[Begin Arias recording] There was what I believe was a mistaken insistence on working solely on the basis of a consensus, which always produces the lowest common denominator, in this case, the most lackluster one. I believe that those who insisted on a consensus paralyzed the OAS and did not allow it to respond to the challenge that the Panamanian situation poses to the democratic conscience of the continent and the world. It is the challenge to clearly and firmly choose between a dictatorship and democracy.

I am convinced, as I said before, that if any of the proposals which were circulated and reflected solidarity with the Panamanian people had been presented and submitted to a vote, there would have been a marked majority in favor of those proposals. [2-second break in reception] ...this context of paralysis of the OAS in the face of the basic challenge posed by the Panamanian case.

However, there was one positive aspect: For the first time, since the OAS effort began on 17 May, it was proposed that the Inter-American Human Rights Commission visit Panama. God knows that we have said on every occasion that human rights are deteriorating seriously in Panama.

The paralyzation of the OAS in the face of the Panamanian challenge leaves the countries free to react individually, and we have begun to see the solidarity of several Latin American countries. Several truly democratic Latin American governments have recognized that, since the OAS has been unable to assume its responsibilities as a collective organization for the reasons I mentioned, it will be up to those countries and truly democratic governments to do so. [end recording]

Arias Calderon said that if the government is prepared to make a new proposal, ADOC will listen attentively.

[Begin Arias recording] If the regime wants to make a new proposal, referring to the problem as a whole, to all the components of the crisis, we will listen attentively. [end recording]

Noriega Said Met With Libya's Al-Qadhdhafi

PA2508152289 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE
PANAMA in Spanish 25 Aug 89 p 1

[Text] Tripoli (DPA)—General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, held a telephone conversation with Libyan leader Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, reports the Libyan press agency JANA.

Peruvian Ambassador Recalled for Consultations

PA2508184589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1748 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Panama City, 25 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Mario Castro Arenas, Peruvian ambassador to Panama, was recalled by the Peruvian Foreign Ministry "for reasons of service" related to the Panamanian crisis, it was reported by sources within the diplomatic mission.

The ambassador himself said to ACAN-EFE that he will leave for Lima "within the next 48 hours."

Other Peruvian Embassy sources recognized that the ambassador's recall for consultations is linked with the controversy which recently arose between Peruvian President Alan Garcia and Panama's strong man General Manuel Antonio Noriega concerning the latter's permanence in the Panama Defense Forces command.

On 21 August Garcia publicly proposed that the United States bring forward the Panama Canal's turnover, scheduled for 1999, so that Noriega would have no excuses to remain in power, and thus "end with the dictatorship" in the country.

Noriega sent an ironic letter to Garcia, appointing him "defense lawyer of the Panamanian cause" and adding that if the United States turns over the canal to Panama "the source of the most dangerous conflict in the continent would disappear."

The ambassadors of Uruguay and Venezuela in Panama are currently in their countries, also recalled for consultations in recent weeks, after the Panamanian crisis worsened.

It was unofficially reported today in Caracas that Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez "is seriously considering the possibility of breaking diplomatic relations with Panama."

The Panamanian opposition, which claims it won the 7 May elections that were later annulled, has requested that the Panamanian regime and Gen Noriega be put in "a diplomatic quarantine."

Venezuelan President Does Not Support Cause

PA2708024789 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish
24 Aug 89 pp 1, 17

[Text] Caracas, 24 Aug (Special Service)—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez has sent Marcel Salamin

[former Panamanian ambassador to Venezuela] to South America to get countries not to support the Panamanian cause.

According to reports from sources close to the Venezuelan Government palace, Marcel Salamin has been sent on such a vile mission with funds that belong to the Venezuelan people, who have been suffering one of the worst economic crises in their history.

In his new role as C.A.P.'s [Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez] messenger boy, Salamin has become one of the servants of U.S. interests against Panama.

The Venezuelan economic crisis worsened since Carlos Andres Perez entered the presidency and applied a series of measures to please the International Monetary Fund. When this happened, thousands of Venezuelans were murdered for protesting the measures imposed by the C.A.P. administration.

Marcel Salamin's mission is to try to get countries like Peru, Argentina, and Ecuador to withdraw their support to the Panamanian cause and join the group of nations that follow Washington's orders.

Following Carlos Andres Perez' instructions, the traitor Marcel Salamin, former Panamanian ambassador to Venezuela, has also visited Colombia, Brazil, and other countries to try to boycott Panama.

Considering Diplomatic Break

*PA2508183589 Panama City Cadena Exitosa
in Spanish 1739 GMT 25 Aug 89*

[Text] In Caracas, Venezuela, the Foreign Ministry has remained totally silent regarding reports about the possible break in diplomatic relations with the Panamanian Government.

According to official reports circulating in the Venezuelan capital, President Carlos Andres Perez' government is seriously considering the possibility of breaking relations with Panama. The diplomatic break would occur soon if Panama's strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega does not allow a change of government and insists on remaining as commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] of the isthmus.

Spokespersons for the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry, who were consulted by EFE today, said that Venezuelan Foreign Minister Enrique Tejera Paris was not available to make statements to newsmen. The same sources stated that Horacio Arteaga, general director of the Foreign Ministry, was "impenetrable" in the face of newsmen's questions.

Venezuela withdrew its ambassador to Panama in late May, 1 week after the elections were held in that country and later annulled by the Panamanian Electoral Tribunal.

According to Panamanian laws, a change of government must occur in Panama. If this does not occur, the constitution will be violated.

The government headed by Manuel Solis Palma, the opposition, and the military led by Noriega have carried out talks in an effort to form a provisional government that would begin a process toward the stabilization of democracy. However, thus far, and despite the mediation of the OAS, the tripartite dialogue has not prospered. It was learned today that in a meeting of the OAS held in Panama this week, Venezuela presented a proposal demanding that Noriega be relieved as FDP commander in chief. The Venezuelan proposal did not obtain the minimum $\frac{2}{3}$ vote required and was not approved. The delegations considered the proposal interventionist and voted against it.

SNI Attacks Government

*PA2708031589 Paris AFP in Spanish 0608 GMT
26 Aug 89*

[Text] Panama City, 25 Aug (AFP)—The Government's National Information System (SNI) has accused the Venezuelan Government, headed by Social Democrat Carlos Andres Perez, of following "U.S. Government orders" and of "interference" in Panama's internal affairs.

SNI issued a public statement today where it justified Panama's stance opposing Venezuela's entry into the Nonaligned Movement "as it follows the U.S. Government's dictates; it an imperialist power that is attacking our country."

Under the title "Carlos Andres Perez: Imperialism's Spearhead at the Nonaligned," SNI asserted that Venezuela presented a proposal at the recent OAS meeting that attempted to censure armed forces Commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega "and intended to tell us what kind of government had to govern our country's destiny."

It added that Perez attempted to eliminate Noriega "from the Panamanian setting to impose a government system that agreed with the United States' imperialist interests.

According to SNI, the U.S. Bush administration pressured the Latin American countries "to isolate Panama," when its attempts to topple Noriega failed, but that "it seemed that Venezuela had gone overboard in this project."

Venezuela withdrew its ambassador to Panama on 10 May, 3 days after the Panamanian elections were annulled.

Noriega Adviser Comments on New Government

PA2508171889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1633 GMT 25 Aug 89

[By Andreu Claret]

[Text] Panama City, 25 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Advisers of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, chief of the Panama Defense Forces (FDP) and the country's "strong man," have disclosed that Noriega is making consultations in order to form a provisional government prior to 1 September.

The annulment of the May elections prevents a new president chosen at the polls from being sworn in on 1 September, and this is the cause of growing uncertainty over the formula that the regime will use to prevent a power vacuum.

Lawyer Renato Pereira, one of Noriega's closest advisers, told ACAN-EFE: "The country's nationalist leadership is sounding out wide opinion sectors and opposition personalities to form a provisional government which could be completed in the next few days."

Pereira noted that "the state cannot be dismantled" and insisted on the "provisional" nature of the new government, which must announce elections within at least 1 year. He stressed that the main objectives of this government will be "to face the U.S. aggression and continue the OAS-sponsored dialogue with the opposition."

The opposition parties have heretofore rejected the Noriega offer and have demand his withdrawal as military chief as a condition to any participation in a government junta.

Meanwhile, Noriega's reticence to publicly disclose his intentions, 1 week prior to 1 September, increases the uncertainty in the country, even in high government circles where there is much speculation about the "formulas" and the names that the general is considering.

ACAN-EFE learned from government sources that the current cabinet held a very tense meeting on Thursday, during which neither President Manuel Solis Palma nor the ministers could predict what will happen in exactly 6 days.

A source close to Gen Noriega, who asked to remain anonymous, confirmed that "there are still no names" (of persons who will form the government), but announced that "the decision will probably be made this coming weekend."

Asked about the institutional mechanism that will permit the formation of this new government, Renato Pereira responded that "its source of legality will be the General State Council," a consultative organization which will include, in addition to the cabinet, ranking state posts and Noriega as FDP commander in chief.

Pereira insisted that "this provisional government will not be an obstacle to the dialogue. On the contrary, it will

facilitate the continuation of the talks which were initiated under the auspices of the OAS."

Noriega's adviser stressed that "the provisional government will continue to closely watch the OAS recommendations to resolve the Panamanian crisis."

After a long and fruitless attempt to mediate the Panamanian crisis, last Thursday the OAS recommended to the government and the opposition that "they pursue the negotiations seeking to find an agreement" that will permit the transfer of power.

John Maisto, charge d'affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Panama, flatly told ACAN-EFE that "a change of puppets is not a transfer," referring to the possibility of a government or provisional "junta."

"The only change of power will occur when Noriega leaves, because he is in power," Maisto added.

Asked about the U.S. attitude if Noriega remains as FDP commander and the opposition is out of the government, Maisto limited himself to answering that "President (George) Bush is contemplating various options," noting that although he is on vacation he is keeping abreast of the Panamanian crisis.

The ambassadors accredited to Panama are observing with attention the regime's maneuvers to replace the current government in an institutional manner, and are wondering about the constitutionality of the approaching measures.

However, Noriega does not appear to be concerned about a massive withdrawal of ambassadors. Above all, many countries do not appear to be willing to do so after the regime regarded the last OAS resolution as a triumph. Asked about the fear of this withdrawal, Pereira anticipated that "if the provisional government is capable of continuing the dialogue, it will be well received by national and international public opinion."

Duque Does Not Rule Out Military Government

PA2608210989 Paris AFP in Spanish 1936 GMT
26 Aug 89

[By James Aparicio]

[Text] Panama City, 26 Aug (AFP)—Carlos Duque, president of the ruling Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), today did not rule out the establishment of a "military government" in Panama beginning on 1 September in the wake of the failure of a dialogue between the opposition and the regime of General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

"The establishment of a military government has not been ruled out although I advocate a civilian government," Duque said today. He warned that anything "taking place after 1 September will have to be outside the Constitution."

Duque said that the General State Council, which is made up of 21 ministers, leaders of official political parties, and the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] staff, will soon start a permanent session to determine the government to replace President Manuel Solis Palma in 6 days.

President Manuel Solis Palma today said that the new government will be announced on 31 August.

The regime of Noriega has been considering several government formulas after the 7 May elections, which the opposition claims it won, were annulled and after the tripartite dialogue sponsored by the OAS failed.

The alternatives considered include a military junta of the government, a solution suggested by Noriega adviser Renato Pereira 2 months ago; a civilian junta with a minister in charge of the Presidency; a civilian-military junta; or "strengthening" the National Assembly of Representatives, made of 510 members.

This assembly, which could stay in power until November, in 1972 was the basis of the political power of General Omar Torrijos when he acted as head of both the army and the government.

Duque said the new government should result from a great national agreement and that, in addition, the government "must take a position regarding the United States, which has continued to apply economic sanctions against Panama since last year to pressure Noriega into stepping down.

Several names have unofficially been mentioned as "strong candidates" for a junta of the government. These are Colonel Marcos Justine, FDP chief of staff; Government Minister Rodolfo Chiari; Commerce Minister Elmo Martinez; National Bank manager Rafael Arosemena; and former Foreign Minister Carlos Ozores.

They are also considering former treaty negotiator Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, Supreme Court President Marisol Reyes, Ambassador to the UK Guillermo Vega, Authentic Panamenist Party president Hildebrando Nicosia, and an opposition businessman.

A government spokesman told AFP that talks were held with "moderate sectors" of the opposition Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement (MOLIRENA) and the Authentic Liberal Party to achieve "a government of conciliation."

According to the source, the formula would not include the Christian Democratic Party, the largest opposition party, and the "radical sectors" of the Panamenist Party and MOLIRENA.

However, the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance, whose leader is former presidential candidate Guillermo Endara, has demanded Noriega's withdrawal and its right to assume power on 1 September.

Duque explained that the "new government must seek the appropriate environment to hold new elections as

soon as possible," but he did not specify whether these elections would be "general or partial."

In conclusion, Duque criticized the presidents of Peru, Venezuela, and Costa Rica for "meddling in Panama's domestic affairs" and described their attitude as "imprudent."

Junta Could Replace Solis

PA2808022489 Paris AFP in Spanish 0022 GMT
28 Aug 89

[Text] Panama City, 27 Aug (AFP)—Carlos Duque, leader of the governing Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), said today that a government junta that could include a military man may replace Manuel Solis Palma in the Panamanian presidency as of 1 September.

While evaluating the various forms of government that the authorities are considering to replace the government of President Solis Palma, a replacement that has become a complicated matter as a result of the annulment of the 7 May elections, which the opposition claims it won, Duque told AFP: "It looks like it will be a government junta, yes."

Duque did not discard the possibility that a military man could form part of this junta, which, according to him, "must maintain the nationalist struggle and the struggle for Panama's national liberation" in the year 2000, when the United States must turn over the canal and withdraw its 12,000 Southern Command soldiers from the canal zone.

Duque said: "We are not expecting anything spectacular. The country keeps on going." Duque noted that the new government "will have the objective of correcting past errors and preparing conditions for new elections."

The PRD leader confirmed that the General State Council comprised of government ministers, the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] staff, and General Manuel Antonio Noriega, will decide on the form of government to be installed in Panama; an announcement on this will be made on the night of 31 August.

Duque, who was the presidential candidate of the National Liberation Coalition, accused the United States of carrying out "a campaign to discredit and isolate Panama and to obstruct the delivery of the canal." He characterized the drug trafficking charges against Noriega as "immoral and absurd." He described the Panamanian general as "one of the Latin American officials who has most contributed toward the struggle against drug trafficking."

Duque warned: "If we let General Noriega leave his post to please Washington or because of U.S. threats, no Latin American official will be safe in his post anymore."

LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA today published the names of several persons who have been pointed out as possible members of the next government. The list

includes FDP Chief of Staff Colonel Marcos Justines, Supreme Court of Justice President Marisol Reyes, Commerce Minister Elmo Martinez, and PRD Vice President Carlos Ozores. Other people on the list are Minister of the Presidency Nander Pitti; Government Minister Rodolfo Chiari; Rafael Arosemena, manager of the National Bank; and Guillermo Vega, Panama's ambassador to London.

Duque described media speculation on who will form part of the new government as "logical," and noted that the composition of the new government will be "a decision that must be made by all government organizations."

'People's Power' Seen as National Solution

PA2508135089 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish
24 Aug 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Toward a National Government With the 510 Representatives"]

[Text] All Panamanians are aware that the Constitution does not specifically provide a solution to the problem created by the annulment of the elections. The various formulas analyzed during the tripartite dialogue sessions were turned down by those in charge of finding a solution. The empire's dark forces did away with any hope of forming a national unity government to rebuild the country. They did this by openly demanding that our nation be delivered into the hands of the very government that attacks us. These forces cry out for military intervention to complete the transaction whereby the nation is sold. Although the talks apparently failed and despite the natural disappointment caused by breaking off a dialogue that could have brought peace and tranquillity to the Panamanian people by letting all conflicting sides participate in a great national reconstruction government, we can still resolve our situation without the intervention of foreign governments.

To achieve this solution, however, we must make the decisions facing our people and forget about the modern Quasimodos who sing to and exalt envy of aristocratic politicians drunk with false victories, the spurious messengers of God who count nonexistent votes with religious bigotry, and who still long to return to the times of the yoke of colonialism and elections advocated by old politicians polluted by the all-powerful dollar.

All power emanates from the people, not yet from the suffering people who are the victims of blackmail, rather the people who can rise above misery and stand firmly on their feet, people ready to offer their chests to the rifles of a foreign power and who refuse to step aside to let the arrogant power go through. This kind of person is represented with dignity by the people's power. This power is the true solution to the country's situation, because through the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives flows the country's most important Omar Torrijos-originated line of thought, which is supported by the masses, made legal by the

foundation of the nation's political organization, and anointed, so to speak, by the basic people's power units.

According to the Constitution and moral standards, any government elected by the people's power will be based on law. This alternative, one of the best, even when coolly analyzed by the most demanding of lawyers, meets the requirements to be adopted as a solution to the so-called power vacuum that will occur on 1 September.

In the deliberations of the 510 Corregimiento representatives lies the possibility of forming a national government that would call for direct elections as soon as practicable to rebuild Panamanian democracy in the Panamanian style.

Naturally, it will be necessary to set a date for such elections without any pressure and without the sword of blackmail poised above our heads.

More Suggestions on New Government Noted

PA2708022989 Panama City Televisora Nacional
in Spanish 2300 24 Aug 89

[Text] Miguel Angel Picard Ami, an expert in local government matters, has said that the municipal councils and corregimiento representatives could hold a great open meeting and become a representative assembly to establish the new executive body or junta of the government that would assume office on 1 September. He said the corregimiento representatives are the only ones who can hold their posts after 1 September, according to Article 31 of Law 106 as amended by Law 52 of 1984.

[Begin recording] [Picard] Law 52 of 1984 stipulates that the new council must be installed on 2 September after the elections. Because the elections were annulled, however, there will be no new council. Therefore, the extant councilmen or representatives should continue to hold their posts until others are elected to replace them or they are re-elected. These are the only officials elected in 1984 who, according to law, can stay in their posts after 1 September. Any other official who stays in power would have to be a de facto one.

[Reporter] Are you suggesting forming a national corregimiento representatives assembly to replace the current Legislative Assembly?

[Picard] I would not like to express an opinion on the replacement of the Legislative Assembly because this should result from the circumstances and the decision of the various forces active in the country. If we succeed in having all the municipal councils, which consist of 524 members, including the 505 representatives, meeting at the end of the month or no later than 1 September, they could hold a great open meeting and compose an assembly of representatives, not so much to replace the Legislative Assembly—because this is secondary—but to establish the new executive body, which could be formed by one president and two vice presidents, or alternatively, one president and a head of the government, an

arrangement that worked fine in Torrijos' time. Or there could be a government junta in which the bona fide opposition could participate. [end recording]

No Power Vacuum Apparent

PA2708013589 Panama City Cadena Exitosa in Spanish
2200 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Text] Severino Mejia, executive director of the Panama Canal Treaty Affairs Directorate, who heads a Panamanian mission visiting Venezuela, said in Caracas today that on 1 September there will be a government in his country.

During a news conference, the mission leader said that on that date, when the Constitution prescribes that a new government be sworn in, there will not be a power vacuum.

The Panamanian delegation has been in Caracas for the past several days. In addition to Mejia, who is a captain in the Panama Defense Forces, it includes Mario Panther and Didimo Escobar, leaders of the Democratic Revolutionary Party, and Iracema de Ahumada, representative of the Women's Single Front Against Aggression.

Panther said that on 1 September there will be a government that reflects a strictly Panamanian solution. He said the forces that are struggling to perfect Panamanian independence will establish a provisional government.

For his part, Escobar explained that progovernment sectors have proposed the formation of a transitional government that will convene elections when the U.S. economic embargo against Panama is lifted. He emphasized that as long as the U.S. aggression against our people continues, there will be no elections, because an honest process that allows Panamanians to freely choose democracy cannot be carried out in a climate of tension and embargo.

The members of the Panamanian mission blamed the opposition parties and the United States for the failure of the OAS mediation effort to find a solution to the Isthmian crisis. They said that all proposals presented by the government sectors to the OAS mission were rejected by the opposition, which made it impossible to arrive at a consensus to end the crisis.

Mejia referred specifically to the military situation, accusing the United States of violating the Torrijos-Carter Treaties by using unilateral military maneuvers as intimidatory actions against the people.

The Torrijos-Carter Treaties signed in 1987 provide for the turnover of the canal to Panama on 31 December 1989 [date as heard]. At present, the canal is being administered jointly by the U.S. and Panamanian Governments.

Mejia reiterated that there is an exaggerated U.S. military presence in his country and that the Marines abuse and provoke Panamanian soldiers and civilians to pave the way for an invasion. The Panamanian officer also said that the U.S. intentions with regard to Panama were demonstrated by the latest State Department statement that the United States can act unilaterally in Panama.

Closure of Opposition Newspapers Ordered

PA2608004389 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0005 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Text] The National Media Directorate of the Government and Justice Ministry has issued a note instructing the public forces to irrevocably confiscate newspapers that are being published illegally, as well as the equipment used to process them. The action will be taken in compliance with Law 11 of 1978 which establishes measures for dealing with the media and published material in print.

The note, signed by National Media Director Luis Romero Villalobos, states that the newspapers concerned are: EL ARNULFISTA, EL PICA GALLO, and LA ESTRELLA VERDE [opposition party newsletters], which are circulating illegally in defiance of orders issued by the Media Directorate.

The note says this disrespectful action has obviously been taken for the purpose of slandering and offending national government leaders.

Communique Issued

PA2608153289 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 26 Aug 89 pp A-1, A-2

[Communique from National Director of Media Luis Romero Villalobos issued in Panama City on 25 August]

[Text] 25 August 1989.

Communique:

In compliance with Law 11 of 10 February 1978, which establishes rules on the media and on the publication of printed material, the National Directorate of Media and the Justice Ministry have issued instructions for public forces to close without leniency any newspaper published outside the law and confiscate any equipment used by this media.

The newspapers to which we are referring, circulate illegally in disobedience of orders issued by this directorate. The names of these newspapers are: EL ARNULFISTA, EL PICA GALLO, and LA ESTRELLA VERDE.

It is evident that newspapers that exhibit this attitude of disrespect have the objective of slandering and abusing national government leaders and institutions in compliance with guidelines from U.S. imperialism in its aggression against the fatherland.

For this reason, the directorate has decided, in compliance with instructions from the higher office [despacho superior], to order the arrest of any person irresponsibly dedicated to the publication or sale of newspapers such as those listed here, because those newspapers, instead of guiding the people, sow hatred in the midst of the Panamanian family.

Arrested persons will be put at the disposal of competent authorities so that they may be investigated and appropriate legal penalties may be applied.

[Signed] Luis Romero Villalobos, National Director of Media

PPAA Calls on Parties To Meet 28 Aug

PA2808041389 Panama City LA ESTRELLA
DE PANAMA in Spanish 27 Aug 89 p 44

[Undated "Patriotic convocation" by the Arnulfist Authentic Panamenist Party [PPAA] in Panama City]

[Text] After allowing time for a political agreement between ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] and COLINA [National Liberation Coalition] in talks sponsored by the OAS representatives, we hereby call for convening all Panamanians without exception in a political dialogue to discuss in depth the proposal for national reconciliation through a new government, be it a junta of the national reconstruction or a provisional unity government of broad participation, as stipulated in a document signed by the presidents of nine political parties, including the PPAA, an independent opposition party.

This urgent meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn hotel at 1800 on 28 August. The presidents of the 12 legally registered political parties that participated in the annulled 7 May elections are invited.

We expect to see at the meeting all of the party presidents, with God's help.

[Signed] Hildebrando Nicosia Perez, PPAA president and moderator of a dialogue between Panamanians.

Noriega Levels Charges Against Businessmen

PA2708000889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
2243 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Text] Rio Hato (Panama), 26 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], stated today that the businessmen of his country, under foreign influence, have confused "the cash register with the trigger of insurrection."

Now they are suffering the consequences (of this confusion)," Noriega added, referring to the economic crisis hitting Panama, which has been aggravated by the U.S. sanctions imposed against the current regime.

Noriega made this statement in reference to the strikes carried out by many Panamanian businessmen 2 years ago to force his ouster as FDP commander in chief.

The FDP leader addressed a group of small and middle businessmen of Latin America who visited him at the Rio Hato Military Base, 120 km west of the capital. He told them that the Panamanians can solve their own problems "if nobody puts himself in someone else's house."

Noriega also accused the United States of trying to be "the gendarme of Latin America and the world."

He said there is "total disinformation seeking to portray (Panama) as a U.S. colony," when this is "something it has never been."

"The Panamanian people are a peaceful people who have never experienced kidnappings, attacks, not even against those who humiliate us, the United States," Noriega emphasized.

The general, current "strongman" of the Panamanian regime, did not elaborate on the current political moment or on the formation of a provisional government, announced by his collaborators for the coming days.

However, Noriega was asked by many progovernment leaders present at the base to exchange opinions on the political situation. The content of the general's statements was not learned.

Noriega's advisers announced yesterday that he is holding consultations to prepare the formation of a "provisional government" before 1 September. This is the date established by the Constitution to replace the current cabinet, following the annulment of the last elections.

Dignity Battalions To Protect Institutions

PA2608150989 Panama City Televisora Nacional
in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] The organizational structure of the Committees for the Defense of the Fatherland and Dignity, CODEPADI, was determined at a meeting this morning. CODEPADI are organizations that originated with the Dignity Battalions. They operate in every government institution and are formed by public employees who work in said institutions. The most important objective of CODEPADI is to defend government institutions if they are attacked by foreign and opposition groups. The reason for the formation of CODEPADI is the U.S. Army South's aggression against our country. The meeting was presided over by a Dignity Battalion Chief Benjamin Colamarco and DIGEDECOP [General Directorate for Community Development] Director Hilario Fernandez.

Provocateurs Arrested in Arraijan District*PA2608143789 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish
24 Aug 89 pp 1, 18*

[By Rogelio Martiz]

[Text] The authorities have arrested Juana Alicia Andres Castro, a well-known 26-year-old civic opposition leader. At the moment of her arrest, late Tuesday night, she and eight other persons who claim to be minors were engaged in subversive activities in the town of Burunga, Arraijan District.

Castro was seen when she, other young people, and Bienvenido Almanza Dominguez—who was being sought by the authorities because of his involvement in a case of assault with a knife and who pretended he was a minor—were painting watchwords to incite violence on the walls of temples and private property along Burunga's main street.

Bienvenido Almanza Dominguez has served time on the prison island of Coiba on two occasions. It has been proven that he participated in the terrorist activities carried out on 7 and 8 May in Arraijan by opposition political groups.

Almanza Rodriguez has said that the group was hired by Miguel de Leon [not further identified] who provided 16 cans of spray paint and had promised to give the group 80 balboas and free entrance to, and free drinks in, a local Burunga discotheque for carrying out the subversive activities.

Juan de la Cruz Cortez Duarte, president of the Burunga Catholic Church Board, has presented at the office of Arraijan Corregidor Fernando Tunon, formal charges for the disrespect shown to four religious temples—one Catholic and the rest Adventist—demanding payment for the damage caused by the frustrated civic politicians.

Controversy Surrounds Selection of Administrator**Canal Candidate on Situation***PA2608013189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
2128 GMT 23 Aug 89*

[Text] Panama City, 23 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Tomas Altamirano Duque, Panama's candidate for the position of next canal administrator, stated today that he did not want the canal to be affected by the crisis with the United States and was hopeful that U.S. President George Bush would confirm his designation to that position.

Altamirano was designated as the first Panamanian to be the canal's administrator by the Panamanian Legislative Branch on 29 June 1989. He would replace the present canal administrator Dennis McAuliffe, a U.S. citizen, in January 1990.

The U.S. Government, which has the final word on who is to be the administrator, has hinted several times that as long as General Manuel Antonio Noriega heads the Panama Defense Forces, it will not ratify the Panamanian candidate.

Altamirano commented on his designation by the Panamanian Legislative Assembly—22 votes in favor, none against, and 13 abstentions—by saying: "I was designated by the Republic of Panama, not by Noriega or the present government administration."

"If the United States wants to comply with the canal treaties—signed by both countries in 1977—it will have to designate me first and, in any case, fire me the next day," he added.

Altamirano, director of Panama's main newspaper "LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA," stated that Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter "will notify the OAS about my candidacy so that the United States—which does not recognize the present government—cannot say in the future that it did not know of my candidacy."

"I am not anti-North American, I am pro-North American," Altamirano Duque said, complaining about the attitude the U.S. administration has adopted against Panama in recent months.

The first Panamanian to be designated future administrator of the canal said that "the North Americans will have to remember my background as someone who cooperated with the Agency for International Development, AID, and my friendship with Everett Briggs (current U.S. ambassador to Honduras) and with Ambler Moss (former U.S. ambassador to Panama)."

He disclosed that he recently met with Terence Kneebone, U.S. Embassy public affairs officer, "to explain to him that they are mishandling this issue."

"They (the embassy diplomats) send erroneous information to Washington about me and what is happening in Panama," Altamirano Duque said, adding that "the U.S. military men (of the Southern Command) are more competent."

He also said "there is no reason why the establishment of a junta or a constituent assembly—after 1 September—should affect my appointment, which was decided by the Legislative Assembly."

He charged that there is "an unjust and slanderous campaign" against him by "other Panamanian candidates (whose names he did not disclose), who want to exert negative influences on U.S. senators and congressmen so they will not confirm my appointment."

Altamirano Duque denied the opposition's charges that his appointment was "politicized" because he is a government legislator.

"I am opposed to any politicization of the canal," he said, adding that "in addition, the United States has a majority in the board of directors up to the year 2000."

Solis Scores Obstacles

PA2808035989 Panama City LA ESTRELLA
DE PANAMA in Spanish 27 Aug 89 pp 1-a, c-4

[Text] President Manuel Solis Palma told LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA yesterday that the United States "is placing obstacles" to the acceptance of the appointment of Tomas Gabriel Altamirano Duque as Panama Canal administrator beginning next year as contemplated in the Torrijos-Carter Treaties.

Referring to the U.S. refusal to comply with the Canal treaties, Solis said: "It is dangerous for canal operations, because any act carried out in this regard lacks any legal basis."

The Legislative Assembly chose Altamirano Duque—current director-president of LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, businessman, and legislator of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD)—from six candidates.

"It is completely out of place and illegal," said Solis of the U.S. rejection of Altamirano Duque, whom he described as "a Panamanian citizen with great qualities."

Solis repeated: "This endangers canal operations because any authority without a Panamanian administrator heading it lacks any legality."

Solis stressed that Altamirano Duque has a great "record" of service to the country, such as the Divisa-Las Tablas concrete road.

The president expressed "high esteem and praise" for Altamirano Duque and warned that, to the United States, "there are no dignified citizens, only those who yield to the whims" of their leaders.

On 1 January 1990, Altamirano Duque will become the first Panamanian to run the canal and a U.S. citizen will be the deputy administrator for the first time since the canal was built in 1914.

Church Decries Campaign Against Official

PA2608014989 Panama City PANORAMA CATOLICO
in Spanish 20 Aug 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Wrong Targets"]

[Text] Those who direct the complex world of political activity and action are aware that they have to resort to certain techniques to obtain their goals. A good politician, besides holding his position as leader in high esteem, has to be ready to face the masses, learn ways to convince others, and know everything possible about social psychology and propaganda.

As he learns the general principles of propaganda, he also learns about counter propaganda to attack, counterattack, win, and make his opponent lose.

One of those basic principles is to create the image of leader for himself and consequently destroy that of his opponent. That is why some men are worshipped while others are unmercifully attacked. The levels of this sociopolitical practice depend on the quality and moral standing of the opponents.

While this dialectic works well when it involves equal partners, for example, one party against another, it is not always effective in confrontations between unequal forces. Those who are struggling for power feel that they can resort to any means. However, that is not the case with those enter the political arena with an ethical vision, with profound moral authority and civic responsibility.

Such is the case with the unequal and frenzied campaign against Msgr Marcos G. McGrath, top leader of the Panamanian Catholic Church.

We presume that some government politicians view the church as any other political party which must be destroyed. According to the principles of counter propaganda, they have to start by "finishing off" the "top leader" using slander and any other means possible, and do to him what they have been doing to opposition leaders.

However, reality is much different, and naturally the effects are extremely counterproductive. The church is not a party nor an organization seeking political power, nor is Msgr McGrath an all-powerful "top leader" who gives orders and dictates and whose decisions can destroy a nation's tranquillity, peace and progress. He is a man of peace, who works along with his equals, the bishops, and whose capabilities, intelligence, selflessness, and profound pastoral responsibility is greatly responsible for the extraordinary progress achieved by the Panamanian church.

The church is committed to its people and is engaged in renovation and its commitment to the needy as decreed by the church according to the Ecumenical Council.

That is why these attacks against Msgr McGrath, besides being immoral and cowardly, are useless and counterproductive to those making them.

Solis Palma Calls for Diversified Market

PA2808043489 Panama City Domestic Service
in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Text] President Manuel Solis Palma has dedicated the first meeting of Latin American businessmen. The meeting was organized by the Managerial Front of the Democratic Revolutionary Party. The Panamanian president said that neither the Panamanians nor any Latin American country should depend on any single nation or power. He said: We must diversify our relations. Solis

Palma noted: Bolivar complained about the lack of Latin American unity to face the Northern Power and today we are living through that same situation.

[Begin Solis Palma recording] We are not looking at Brazil, or Argentina, or Mexico, or other sister nations that can offer much if they were to become interested in finding out what they could negotiate with us. We have been acting this way because larger markets have been catching our attention.

However, our countries, regardless of how poor they might be, have something to offer to sister nations and there are things they can receive from those sister nations.

If we decide to buy in Latin America the raw material that we have been buying in the United States and, occasionally in Europe, we would have a more permanent source of material, a more humane source, a source that would have ideas different from those that are imposed on us by the large industrial empires.

[Cuban Independence Hero Jose] Marti once said: Our wine is bitter, but it is our wine. I would like to say: Latin American products may not be of the highest quality as products from other places might be, but they are Latin American. [end recording]

The president also said that underdevelopment must be removed from our minds. He said we must not have the psychological complex of thinking that a car made in Brazil cannot be as good as one made in Germany. He asked: Are we going to believe that our people have no talent and cannot make improvements?

[Begin Solis Palma recording] Sometimes we think that our products are no good. There was a time when no one in Panama would think of buying a Japanese car. Nowadays when given a choice between a product made in Japan and another made in the United States, we say: I will take the Japanese product. Why was it possible for the Japanese to improve and why cannot we? Why can we not say that a car from Brazil is just as good or better than one built in Japan? Why not? Our workers can reach the necessary levels. Our technology can reach those levels.

This, however, will not happen until we instill a love for science among our people, as long as the people in the education sector do not understand that what we have to do now is to turn our men into scientists and to develop high technology to stop being totally dependent, because as long as we have this kind of dependency we will be underdeveloped nations. [applause]

When I passed through Santa Cruz de Bolivia recently, I met with young, talented businessmen who told me how they are increasing their agricultural production, how much they would like to have relations with Panama and other countries, and how much they would like to use the Free Zone to export their products. I told them: Go to Panama to see what we can do. Perhaps we may not be able to buy much from them right now, but if our territory, because of the privileged geographical position God has given us, can serve as a bridge to the rest of Latin America, I will feel more proud of benefiting a Latin American than benefiting those who do not know how to appreciate our efforts. [end recording]

Argentina

Cavallo on Falklands, Menem's Visit to Brazil

PY2508151289 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1411 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Aug (TELAM)—Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo today confirmed that Argentina will not present a request to the United Nations, as it has been doing every year, urging the United Kingdom to resume negotiations on the Malvinas.

Cavallo added that the agenda "that will be discussed in Madrid 17 to 18 October makes this request unnecessary."

Commenting on President Menem's first trip to the Republic of Brazil, Cavallo said: "It was a very important trip. Brazil was the first country to be visited [as received] because it has been helping and supporting Argentina in its efforts to solve the Malvinas problem. This trip has also yielded very good results that will help our exports to Brazil."

Cavallo made these comments during the first of a series of monthly working breakfasts he will have with journalists accredited to the Foreign Ministry.

More Comments on Falklands

PY2508153689 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1416 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Aug (NA)—Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo this morning implicitly admitted that Argentina will withdraw the request to neighboring countries to keep the British ferry "Indiana I" out of their ports. This policy results from the negotiations with Great Britain to resume diplomatic relations.

In a news conference at San Martin Palace, Cavallo labeled as "feasible, but with no date," the possibility that relatives of soldiers killed on the Malvinas Islands will be able to visit their deceased.

Cavallo added that President Carlos Menem's visit to Brazil "is at least as important as the resumption of talks with Great Britain, and that in a medium-and long-term it will be even more important."

Cavallo also announced that before September Argentina will restructure its policy on granting fishing rights to third countries in its exclusive economic zone, and that the fishing agreement with the Soviet Union, which expires on 17 September, will also be treated "within that new general guidelines, and not as an isolated case."

He said that during the talks between Argentine and British representatives in New York last week, Great Britain considered "virtually irrelevant" the possibility that Argentina might declare a (?formal cessation of hostilities) resulting from the 1982 war. Cavallo added that his government is willing to adopt this measure

eventually as part of a set of Argentine-British decisions that will eliminate all traces of the South Atlantic conflict.

He also announced that the lifting of restrictions on maritime and air transport with Great Britain [words indistinct] on 18 October in Madrid.

He concluded by saying that during his recent visit to Brazil, Menem expressed "the appreciation of the Argentine people and government for the support of the Brazilian people and government during the war over our Malvinas Islands."

Views 'Protective Umbrella'

PY2608035489 Buenos Aires Domestic Service
in Spanish 0200 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Cavallo has characterized the opening of negotiations with Great Britain as highly positive. Cavallo held a news conference today in which he talked about relations with Great Britain, trade, and the Malvinas Islands.

Domingo Cavallo discussed the issue of sovereignty during the news conference as well as the meaning of the protective umbrella.

[Begin Cavallo recording] The precise meaning of the umbrella will be defined at the first round of negotiations that will begin on 17 October.

For the time being we agreed that the term umbrella refers to a formula of reserved rights [reserva de derechos] that each party has on the Malvinas, South Georgia, and South Sandwich Islands. The reserved rights include a definition of sovereignty over the islands and rights over the waters around them.

The issue of demilitarizing the South Atlantic is included in the agenda in a section that discusses mechanisms to increase mutual trust between the parties and mechanisms to avoid military incidents in the South Atlantic. [end recording]

President's Brother Comments on London Visit

PY2508150089 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1312 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 25 Aug (TELAM)—Acting Senate President Eduardo Menem has said that the meetings he will hold with British Parliament members in London next week "will complement" those that will be held between the diplomatic representatives of both nations next October in Spain.

These talks, Menem emphasized, will also help build on the Argentine Government's "important achievement of breaking the status quo and persuading the British to negotiate" on the Malvinas Islands. [passage omitted]

As for his participation in the Inter-Parliamentary Union meeting that will convene in London next week,

Menem said that it will be an "appropriate occasion to talk about the Malvinas." He noted that although the meeting's specific agenda does not include the Malvinas Islands issue, "it can be brought up during the general debate on the world's economic, political, and social situation."

He reiterated that the British Parliament members' invitation "to hold bilateral talks will help build on the Argentine Government's important achievement of breaking the status quo and persuading the British to negotiate, something that they have refused to do since 1983."

These talks, Menem stressed, "will complement efforts that will be made in the future, beginning with the 17-18 October meetings in Madrid" between diplomatic representatives of both nations. [passage omitted]

Luder Confirms Amnesty for Indicted Officers

PY2508161889 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1150 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Aug (NA)—Defense Minister Italo Luder has reported that the government has already decided to pardon the military officers accused of human rights violations and the officers and civilians who attempted to seize the Jorge Newbery Metropolitan Airport in January 1989.

Luder held a lengthy news conference with foreign correspondents, during which he engaged in a sharp argument with a reporter who asked him about a supposed relationship between Colonel Ali Seineldin and Panama's General Manuel Noriega, who is said to be involved in drug trafficking.

"I ask you to withdraw that question," Luder told the reporter who asked it, because "Colonel Seineldin was appointed to that country by the Argentine Government, and he had nothing to do with Panamanian domestic affairs."

The same reporter also asked whether the United States has expressed any dissatisfaction over the possible influence that Col Seineldin could have on the Army ranks.

Luder admitted that amnesty for the indicted former commanders, as well as for Montonero leader Mario Firmenich and other members of that organization who are still at large, is a decision the president will make in due time.

Regarding those involved in human rights violations—17 generals and 2 admirals—the defense minister told the foreign correspondents that the decision to suspend their trials and to grant them amnesty "is a decision of the government." He declined, however to say when this measure would be adopted.

Speaking further on the amnesty issue, Luder answered a question about the Air Force officers who, led by Commodore Luis Fernando Estrella, tried to seize the Metropolitan Airport in January 1989. Luder said that they will be granted amnesty, as will the civilians who were involved in this attempt.

Estrella and a group of Air Force officers, supported by some civilians, tried to seize the airport when Brigadier Teodoro Waldner, former chief of the joint staff, was scheduled to land there.

The military and civilians have been sentenced to prison terms of 1 to 12 years.

Talking about international relations, Luder told the foreign correspondents that the easing of tensions with London is improving Argentina's relations with the United States, especially in military matters.

Menem on Military Amnesty, Drugs, Brazil Visit

PY2608012889 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2040 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Aug (NA)—President Carlos Menem today confirmed that finding a solution to the military problem is "his exclusive responsibility," but noted that the legal procedure to solve the problem was not yet very clear.

Menem said that "from now on" he will leave the discussions on the Argentine foreign debt "in the hands of the negotiators" to devote himself "purely and exclusively" to the development of the country.

The president talked with reporters accredited to Government House for about 40 minutes today. Menem reiterated that his visit to Brazil had been highly positive.

Regarding the military issue, Menem reiterated that a decision to pardon the military men involved in human rights violations will be made "before the end of the year."

Asked about Interior Minister Eduardo Bauza's statement that Menem could decide on the military question "in the first days of September," Menem said: "He is the minister; the person with the power to decide is the president."

Menem also said that he was satisfied with an inflation report released a few days ago, and added: "We are on the right path."

"People are already talking about a single-digit inflation rate for next month. We will have single-digit inflation if nothing unexpected happens," Menem stressed.

The president "energetically" condemned the Colombian drug trafficking gangs' decision "to declare war" on that government. Menem said Argentina "will make joint efforts" with Colombia to fight "the death trade."

"I was strongly criticized during my electoral campaign when I asked for the death penalty for those I labeled traders of death," Menem said. He denied that Argentina will send troops to Colombia to help fight drug trafficking.

"We will do everything possible," Menem stressed [words indistinct] the spread of drug trafficking in Latin America.

Menem also said that his meeting with U.S. President George Bush "will be held in the 21-23 September time period" during his visit to that country to speak at the UN General Assembly.

Regarding the agenda of the meeting, Menem said: "It is my style to keep the agenda open, particularly when the issue is to solve the problems" of Latin America.

Menem also ruled out any possible meeting with Chilean President Augusto Pinochet in the near future. Menem said he did not have "any knowledge" of an eventual meeting.

Menem said the results of his trip to Brazil were "excellent." The president added that "very important agreements, such as the ones on nuclear energy, aerospace development, and satellite deployment, were signed."

Menem said that his government will take appropriate measures to begin moving "toward the Latin American common market," an aspiration he maintained throughout his electoral campaign.

Menem said that "the Andean Pact seems to be reviving and the Group of Eight is very active." These facts help "toward solving Latin American problems," Menem added.

Asked about the government's position on the dismissal by ACINDAR [Argentine Steel Industries, Inc] of 5,000 workers, Menem said it "was too much" but recalled that ACINDAR "is a private company and we will see what we can do to overcome the problem."

Political Groups React to Military Amnesty

PY2608144489 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish
1124 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Aug (DYN)—Although President Carlos Menem denied that the "legal provisions" have already been defined for solving the problem of officers prosecuted and sentenced for human rights violations, various political groups and human rights organizations have voiced their opposition to an amnesty.

Yesterday, Menem stressed that "the military issue is under my exclusive responsibility, and I will assume the cost" that measures in that regard may imply.

The United Left (IU) reaffirmed that a march of protest against amnesty will be held 8 September.

At the headquarters of the Human Rights Permanent Assembly, six human rights organizations met with representatives of leftist political parties. The human rights organizations central proposal was to stage a march in support of the slogan "For truth and justice: No to amnesty," as defined in a document the organizations submitted to President Menem last week.

It should be noted that the "Plaza de Mayo Mothers" and the "Argentine League for Human Rights" anticipate that they will not take part in that march if "those who would implement the policy of impunity" also participate.

In turn, the UCR [Radical Civic Union] has asked the Justicialist Party not to encourage the implementation of an amnesty law that would benefit officers accused of serious human rights violations or involved in the uprisings of Holy Week 1987 and December 1988.

A UCR declaration says: "Only an amnesty law dictated as the result of consolidated national reconciliation can be ethical and politically acceptable."

The National Committee of the Intransigent Party (PI) lambasted the eventual promulgation of an amnesty for officers charged with having committed grievous excesses in the war against subversives. The committee issued a warning that any decision in this regard presupposes "at least a popular pronouncement" to guide the measures to be adopted.

The Workers Party (PO) voiced its repudiation of "the attempt by an array of organizations, parties, and politicians that voted for the so-called law of expiration, the due obedience law, and the state of siege to take advantage of the popular opposition to amnesty so that a bourgeois political bloc can take command of the struggle against the Bunge and Born regime."

Israeli Deputy Minister Levi Visits 25 Aug

PY2508173689 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1531 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Rosario, 25 Aug (TELAM)—Israeli Deputy Prime Minister David Levi has stressed that if his country becomes weak it will be unable to reach a stable peace with the Arab countries, and he added that Israel "should remain a strong nation" to engage in negotiations.

"If they see that it is impossible to defeat Israel, they will have to negotiate directly with us," he said.

Levi, who is also the minister of construction and housing, made these comments during a visit to Rosario during which he talked with journalists and with Jewish youths. He also attended a reception hosted in his honor by the Israeli Charitable Association. [passage omitted]

Military Weapons Seized; Smugglers Arrested*PY2508184489 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish
1600 GMT 25 Aug 89*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Aug (DYN)—In several raids this week, personnel from the Department for the Preservation of Institutional Order arrested two individuals who sold military weapons in Argentina. Many weapons were seized during the raids.

It was reported that more than 100 weapons were seized, including 47 pistols, 31 revolvers, 7 rifles, 2 machine-guns—which were smuggled into the country—7,000 shotgun cartridges, 5 kg of powder, 230 fuses, and 5 antitank projectiles.

The authorities also confiscated several boxes with dies and punches for metal stamping, almost 300 forged forms for the possession of arms and for carrying arms, two late-model cars, \$2,000, 1 kg of gold, and 80,000 australes earned from the sale of weapons.

The case was given to Federal Judge Nestor Luis Blondi, who ordered that the investigation be conducted in strict secrecy. He banned the release of the identities of the two persons and of the location of the arrests.

Unofficial sources have said that one of the detainees is a weapons specialist. This explains the excellent quality of the weapons and their considerable fire power. The other detainee was in charge of selling the weapons.

It was reported that the weapons were brought from different European and American countries, including the United States, Brazil, and Paraguay.

Police Inspector Hector Jose Souza, who heads the Federal Police Department for the Preservation of Constitutional Order, said that the investigation began in May, when the police learned about the large-scale smuggling of arms into Argentina.

The detainees have been charged with violating Article 189 of the penal code, which punishes, with prison terms of 5 to 15 years, any involvement in crimes that jeopardize public security by supplying weapons or devices that can produce damage.

Chile**Soviet Ships Sighted in National Waters***PY2608033289 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
2300 GMT 25 Aug 89*

[Text] Navy reconnaissance planes on patrol over Chile's exclusive economic zone discovered four Soviet ships fishing south of Chiloe within Chilean waters. The ships quickly fled.

The Navy made a public announcement on the incident and warned that in the future it will detain and arrest any Soviet ship fishing without authorization in Chile's jurisdictional waters.

The note says that at 1400 on 24 August Navy reconnaissance planes discovered four Soviet ships fishing 130 miles off Huafo Island, south of Chiloe's Isla Grande.

The planes tried to radio the Soviet ships but received no answer. When they saw the planes the Soviet ships covered up their international identification numbers, lifted their nets, and quickly escaped due west.

The communique says that two of the ships were identified as FB-0547 ("Atan Kesagnev") and FB-0452 ("Namaya Kershi").

The Chilean Government, especially the Navy, has usually given all kinds of assistance to Soviet ships when they have requested to dock in Chilean ports to drop off sick or wounded sailors. This is done for humanitarian reasons and to fulfill international laws of the sea that cover the safety of ships at sea. This attitude is in contrast to the attitude of the Soviet ships, which do not respect our exclusive economic zone, not even in recognition of the support and assistance the Navy usually grants them.

The Navy has emphasized that in the future it will detain and arrest all Soviet ships fishing without authorization in our exclusive economic zone and ships that refuse to answer a call, hide their international characteristics, or try to escape.

Aylwin Criticizes Pinochet's Armed Forces Address*PY2408195789 Santiago Radio Chilena Network
in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Aug 89*

[Excerpt] Patricio Aylwin, the presidential candidate for the opposition coalition, has stated that General Augusto Pinochet's speech yesterday had a threatening tone and revealed a clear intention to intervene in the elections scheduled for next December. Aylwin made this statement during a news conference in Copiapo at the beginning of his 2d day in the 3d Region.

[Begin Aylwin recording] I believe his speech had a threatening tone and revealed an obvious intention to intervene in the elections. I would also like to point out that the country may rest assured that if I am elected president of the Republic, as I expect to be, I will fully exercise the authority vested upon me by the Constitution in my capacity as president within a state of law. I abide by the law.

Aylwin added that the Constitution clearly states that no single person can exercise more power than that established by the Constitution and that the current laws give the president of the Republic no authority to threaten political parties nor try to impose measures that future presidents of the Republic must observe.

When asked about the possibility of an eventual dialogue with the Armed Forces, specifically with Gen Augusto Pinochet, Aylwin said that this is not the right moment for a dialogue and refused to say when it would be appropriate. He said that if he is elected president of the

Republic, he thinks it would be convenient to meet with the Armed Forces in order to clarify any possible misunderstanding as soon as he takes power.

Aylwin said that there seem to be sectors interested in creating conflicts between the Armed Forces and the opposition sector. He went on to say that we seek the best of understanding among all Chileans in order to safeguard the stability of the institutions and social peace in Chile. [passage omitted]

Buchi Turns Down Opposition Challenge

PY2508203189 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Hernan Buchi, the independent presidential candidate for the rightist sector, has rejected the challenge issued by the Coalition of Parties for Democracy.

A communique issued today by the former finance minister's electoral campaign team states that Buchi believes that the National Intelligence Center, CNI, should be dismantled and that he is concerned over the subject of human rights. They also say that they find it unacceptable that he should account for his participation in the military government.

The communique also adds that Hernan Buchi is in favor of new amendments to the Constitution that have already been approved by the country.

The communique ends by terming the candidacy of the Coalition of Parties for Democracy as a leftist Christian Democratic alliance and noted that Buchi respects the president of the Republic and acknowledges the magnitude of what Pinochet's government has done.

Police Injure Students During Buchi's Visit

PY2408232289 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Relay from Valdivia]

[Excerpt] The Director of the School of Journalism of the Valdivia Southern University this morning issued the following statement:

1. Students Sandra Burgos Alvarado, Gabriela Araya Gomez, and Marcos Matto Zuniga were injured in the face and in the temple by rubber bullets fired from a short distance by Carabineros in the Cordi sector at 2000 yesterday. These students and their classmates were searching for transportation when incidents and power cuts took place.

2. The students were preparing a full report on presidential candidate Hernan Buchi's visit to Valdivia. This report was to have been delivered today to the professor of Introduction to Journalism.

Many sectors were aware that the students were carrying out this task with objectivity and prudence, and keeping in mind that those who seek the truth should be unbiased.

3. The director of the School of Journalism strongly condemns the treatment given to the students who were complying with a professional task. He also charges that some of the students were intimidated and told not to inquire about the candidate's private life. The students were told that they would be forced to leave if they dared to ask Buchi about his private life.

4. The director of the School of Journalism regrets these incidents and demands respect for the inalienable right of freedom of expression and information. As an institution that trains future journalists, we are responsible for their moral and professional education as well as for their lives. From now on, nothing will prevent them from carrying out their professional task of telling the truth to the public.

During a meeting with residents of the 10th Region, rightist presidential candidate Hernan Buchi described the incidents that occurred yesterday afternoon as unfortunate.

Cristian Larroulet, an adviser of Buchi's campaign, blamed directly the Communist Party for the incidents. Larroulet is accompanying Buchi on his 3-day tour of southern Chile.

Larroulet said that despite these incidents, Buchi will not modify his program, which includes meeting with residents and students, because democracy is only possible through dialogue with the people.

Larroulet added that Buchi had asked him to visit the three journalist students of the Valdivia Southern University who were wounded yesterday. [passage omitted]

Bomb Attack on Mormon Church in Osorno Reported

PY2408182589 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Excerpt] One youth was slightly injured and nine other students and a teacher escaped unhurt following the explosion of a bomb that partially destroyed the entrance of a church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints, or Mormon Church, on Pacifico Avenue in the Rague Alto sector in Osorno City.

Ten children all between 12 and 16 years old who were studying the Bible with teacher Monica Oyozon Vazquez were inside the church when the bomb exploded at 2010.

The 16-year old youth was identified as Alejandro Mauricio Aribel Manque, who lives at 1586 Bogota Street of this city. He sustained a cut on his right leg. The bomb contained approximately 200 grams of ammonium gelignite.

The remaining youths were unhurt, however, and merely frightened by the explosion that partially damaged the church entrance where the bomb had been planted. The glass in the windows and doors was also shattered. [passage omitted]

FPMR Pamphlets Found

PY2408210389 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Report from Radio La Voz de la Costa de Osorno]

[Excerpt] A bomb exploded just after 2000 last night in a Mormon Church on Pacifico Avenue in the Rague Alto District of this city causing slight damage. The explosion was heard within a large radius. The church windows were shattered and the entrance steps damaged. Pamphlets in which an alleged Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front commando claimed responsibility for the attack were found in the bomb site. [passage omitted]

CNI Says Dead Terrorist Teitelboim's Stepson

PY2508004489 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] The National Intelligence Center, CNI, reported this afternoon that Roberto Nordenflyght Farias, who killed Army Lieutenant Roberto Zegers Ruiz in an armed clash in Santiago last Sunday, was at the time of his death deputy chief of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] and the stepson of communist leader Volodia Teitelboim.

In an official communique, the CNI Public Relations office says that a review of the documents seized from Nordenflyght's home made it possible for the CNI to conclude that he was the deputy chief of the FPMR, the armed branch of the Chilean Communist Party [PCCh].

Nordenflyght, who was killed by a sentry in the armed clash at the Tobalaba airfield after killing Lt Zegers, assumed the leadership position within the extremist organization in September 1988, the CNI said.

In this capacity, Nordenflyght supervised a 21 October attack on a police detachment and residents of the mountain township of Los Quenes, in the seventh region.

The CNI adds that Nordenflyght was the son of Eliana del Carmen Farias Assif, who has been married to PCCh General Secretary Volodia Teitelboim since January 1986.

This was part of a communique released by the CNI, the government's security organization.

Officer Sentenced for Killing, Burning Youths

PY2508165089 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Army Lieutenant Pedro Fernandez Dittus, who is charged with being involved in the burning of two youths [the 1986 incident during which Gloria Quintana and Rodrigo Rojas were said to have been set on fire by police], has been sentenced to 300 days imprisonment.

The sentence was passed down by Santiago Judge advocate General Carlos Parera Silva, who has charged Pedro Fernandez with involuntarily killing Rodrigo Rojas Denegri and with involuntarily seriously injuring Carmen Gloria Quintana.

The judge advocate considers that the sentence has already been served, and he cited the officer's exemplary behavior.

Hector Salazar, the lawyer for the affected party [not further identified] said that he did not agree with the sentence and announced that he will appeal it before a court martial.

Navy Reportedly Negotiating for French Torpedoes

PY2508201389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1829 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Santiago, 25 Aug (EFE)—The Chilean Navy is negotiating the purchase of the French-built "Morena" antisubmarine torpedo. This is according to a report published in the opposition newspaper LA EPOCA of Santiago, citing the international magazine DEFENSE NEWS as its source.

According to the newspaper the purchase of the torpedoes was requested early this year by Chilean Naval Aviation. They will be installed on the AS-332 Super Puma helicopters that have recently been acquired by the Chilean Navy.

The "Morena" is a new generation light torpedo which is currently being developed under the supervision of Naval Construction Directorate (DCN), the naval weapons office of the French Defense Ministry.

LA EPOCA adds that the torpedo, which may be delivered in 1992, has not yet been ordered by the French Navy.

The French Defense Ministry has refused to comment on the sale of these torpedoes to the Chilean Navy and has not disclosed the quantity and the value of the deal, the newspaper indicates. LA EPOCA also consulted official sources of the Chilean Navy in Santiago, but they refused to either confirm or deny the report.

Brazilian Embassy Asks for Police Reinforcements

*PY2508205189 Santiago Radio Chilena Network
in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Aug 89*

[Excerpt] Brazilian Government authorities today voiced their concern over the threats that have been made against the members of the Brazilian Embassy in Santiago following the FIFA [International Federation of Association Football] decision to close the national stadium [in Santiago].

According to a press report, the hostile climate that the Chileans intend to maintain during the preliminary games for the World Soccer championship in 1990 prompted the Brazilian Embassy in Santiago to ask the Chilean Government for police reinforcements to guarantee the safety of its staff. [passage omitted]

Scientific Cooperation Pact Signed With Haiti

*PY2508144489 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
1030 GMT 25 Aug 89*

[Text] Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz has stated that the Scientific and Technical Cooperation Agreement signed with Haiti yesterday, 24 August, will contribute to the overall development of the two countries.

During a ceremony in the Red Hall of the Foreign Ministry, which was attended by Haitian Ambassador (Jean Thomas) and other members of the Haitian Embassy, Minister Errazuriz noted the goals that will be achieved through this agreement.

[Begin Errazuriz recording] The implementation of this agreement will allow our countries to create research and training centers, organize seminars and conferences, grant scholarships, and exchange information, equipment, material, and human resources. This will undoubtedly contribute to the overall development of our two countries.

The Chilean-Haitian Cooperation's work group will be in charge of establishing which sectors will first benefit from the complementary agreements and cooperation programs and of coordinating their execution. [end recording]

The Haitian ambassador said that the agreement strengthens the friendship that has always existed between the two countries.

He also noted that Haitian President Prosper Avril has promised to create conditions favorable for the restoration of democracy through free elections.

Nuclear Commission Denies Building Plant

*PY2608015989 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
2300 GMT 24 Aug 89*

[Text] The National Commission for Nuclear Energy [CNEN] has clarified a mistaken newspaper report

which alleged that Chile is building a nuclear power plant in Chile and a nuclear waste dump in Argentina.

CNEN Executive Director Hernan Brady released a note in which he categorically denied the construction of such a plant. In a news conference on 14 August, the CNEN merely evaluated the different energy alternatives available in the country and one of the alternatives is a nuclear plant, Brady said.

Another noteworthy point is that in today's technology the electric energy produced by a nuclear plant is more expensive than that produced by an hydroelectric plant. The note adds that in no case could a nuclear plant cost \$1 billion, as a Santiago newspaper has reported.

The communique concludes by saying that Argentine authorities are analyzing some 200 possible sites for establishing a nuclear waste dump.

Restrictions on Electricity Consumption Lifted

*PY2508170089 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
1030 GMT 25 Aug 89*

[Text] The restrictions imposed by the electricity companies on large industrial consumers have been lifted as of 25 August.

According to the National Energy Commission (CNE), as of today the television channels may extend their night programs since restrictions prompted by droughts have been lifted.

The CNE also adds that the municipalities have been authorized to return to normal street lighting which had been affected by the restrictions.

The CNE has urged consumers to continue saving electricity, especially in their homes, in order to allow water reserves in Lake Lajar to recover. Such action will help ensure the electricity supply for the first half of 1990.

Colombia

Justice Minister De Greiff Reportedly Resigns

*PA2708173789 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish
1658 GMT 27 Aug 89*

[By Alvaro Pardo]

[Excerpt] Bogota, 27 Aug (REUTER)—The respected EL ESPECTADOR newspaper has reported that Colombian Justice Minister Monica de Greiff, a key official in the war on drug trafficking, has resigned.

Meanwhile, Medellin Metropolitan Police announced that, early this morning, unidentified persons placed 11 bombs in various government bank branches. Seven of these bombs exploded, causing damage, but there were no victims.

Justice Minister Monica de Greiff, 32, went to the United States on 25 August to submit a specific plan on the use of a \$2-million U.S. grant to provide security to Colombian judges.

EL ESPECTADOR said that "rumors of a possible cabinet reshuffle grew, and it was fully confirmed that Justice Minister Monica de Greiff had resigned and will stay for an indefinite period in the United States."

A Justice Ministry spokesman declined to comment on the newspaper report, but a political source of the ruling party told REUTER he had heard the minister was going to resign.

Another source said De Greiff will stay in the United States for 12 days and that she will tender her resignation upon her return.

De Greiff, who was appointed on 16 July, was asked before leaving the country if she was a wartime or peacetime minister. She replied: "I am a peacetime minister."

Local news media and political sectors interpreted this comment as advance notice of her resignation. [passage omitted]

Resignation 'Unofficially Confirmed'

PA2708183189 Bogota Inravisión Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1805 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Text] It was unofficially confirmed today that Colombian Justice Minister Monica de Greiff has tendered her resignation. De Greiff was appointed justice minister only 1 month ago.

It was said that Minister De Greiff stated she was a government official for times of peace and not for times of war.

It was also said that before her trip to Washington De Greiff met with Colombian President Barco to inform him of her decision, which will be released upon her return to the country.

Assassination Plot Uncovered

PA2708203489 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1935 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Bogota, 27 Aug (REUTER)—Colombian Justice Minister Monica de Greiff, a key figure in the war against narcotics trafficking, resigned her post and left for the United States after a plot to assassinate her was uncovered, a local news agency reported.

Minister Monica de Greiff, 32, left on Friday for the United States to present a specific plan on the use of a nearly \$2-million donation to Colombia to be used for the security of the judges.

"The withdrawal of Minister de Greiff was determined on Thursday, when the security offices uncovered a

terrorist plan to assassinate her," a Colprensa [Colombian Press Agency] report said quoting unidentified sources.

The daily EL ESPECTADOR reported that "rumors about a possible cabinet shuffle had intensified and the resignation of Justice Minister Monica de Greiff was fully confirmed. It was said she will remain in the United States for an indefinite period of time."

Asked by REUTER about this version, a presidential spokesman declined to comment and said he had no information about a possible change in the ministry.

Colprensa pointed out that, according to the plan that was uncovered, De Greiff was to have been assassinated in her own office, and another official, Hernando Lopez Rubio, the deputy director of the Criminal Investigations Office, would also be murdered.

The news agency added that President Virgilio Barco is studying the possibility of replacing the resigned minister with General Miguel Maza Marquez, the chief of the Administrative Department of Security (DAS), one of the most active officials in the struggle against the paramilitary groups and narcotics traffickers. [passage omitted]

Resignation, Cabinet Crisis Denied

PA2808005589 Paris AFP in Spanish 0026 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Bogota, 27 Aug (AFP)—Colombian President Virgilio Barco tonight denied a possible crisis in his 13-minister cabinet and denied that Justice Minister Monica de Greiff had resigned.

The president felt he had to make this statement in view of persistent rumors that De Greiff, who has been in the United States since Friday, had resigned after receiving death threats from the drug trafficking mafias.

Communications Minister Carlos Lemus, the acting justice minister, confirmed that none of the 13 ministers of the Cabinet, which was reorganized in mid-July, had resigned.

In a declaration the Presidency delivered to AFP tonight, Barco said: "I have not thought of nor is there any reason for a cabinet crisis."

"It is not something I have considered now nor plan to in the future," the Colombian president, who declared total war against drug trafficking mafias a week ago, concluded.

However, certain newspapers and radio and television newscasts have insisted that De Greiff has resigned.

Judicial Branch Employees Plan Mass Resignations

PA2708040889 Bogota Inravisión Television Cadena 1
in Spanish 0110 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Text] Today in Bogota and other departmental capitals, a campaign is continuing to collect signatures in support of a collective resignation of the country's judges. Judicial Branch employees insist that they do not have sufficient protection to carry out their duties in view of the repeated threats made against them.

A total of 548 judges work in Bogota's special district, and 300 of them have agreed to resign. Judges of Cali, Medellin, and Cucuta are also among those who want to abandon their desks. They say they have exhausted all available legal recourses, and are not willing to continue burying one of their colleagues every 15 days.

[Begin recording] [Gregorio Oviedo, municipal judge] If the government does not provide any protection or guarantees, then we have to take a legitimate action in defense of our lives. In this regard, the only alternative is to resign. [end recording]

Since the death of magistrate Carlos Valencia, only three magistrates of the Bogota Superior Tribunal have received armored cars, despite continuing threats to that institution members.

If the judges leave their posts en masse, half a million court cases would be paralyzed, and 20,000 prisoners, in addition to 10,000 others in custody for alleged links to drug trafficking, would have to wait for resolution of their court cases.

The judges are insisting that President Barco heed their outcry.

Ministry Official To Meet Judges

PA2808031789 Bogota Inravisión Television Cadena 1
in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Report by Mary Villalobos]

[Text] Diogenes Plata, secretary of the Ministry of Justice, will meet with the magistrates tomorrow in an effort to dissuade them from resigning en masse. The judges will present to him, among other things, the need for the branch to have the necessary resources to prevent a repetition of the incident of the Bogota Higher Court.

The Higher Court of Bogota and Cundinamarca operates at the Esmeralderos Street. In this sordid, 57-year-old building, 67 employees of the civil and penal rooms issue decisions and pass sentences. All files pass through these offices before reaching the Supreme Court of Justice. The hallways are the only decent part of these facilities. The offices are dilapidated. In a small room 17 Secretariat General employees work, and they do not have a safe to keep the files. The windows are inoperative. Anyone can easily enter the magistrates' offices. There is a garbage dump in front of the office of Magistrate Carlos Valencia, who was murdered. Paper from all over

the building ends up there. Finally, several jewelers work in the second and third floors. Their work interferes with the administration of justice.

However, not only the facilities are defective. Every month the employees must each contribute 200 pesos out of their own pockets for coffee.

The Ministry of Justice's rotating fund has announced that the Bogota Higher Court will be moved to another location in 2 weeks so justice can be administered more appropriately.

Barco Vows To Struggle Against Drug Trafficking

PA2608044889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0338 GMT
26 Aug 89

[Text] Bogota, 25 Aug (EFE)—President Virgilio Barco said tonight that the struggle against the drug cartels will be taken "as far as is necessary" to eradicate the drug trafficking permanently.

Barco spoke tonight over radio and television. He said: "I am prepared to go as far as necessary to end this scourge and to defend the rights of Colombians who want to live in peace democratically."

The Colombian president urged all citizens to cooperate with the government in the war declared against the drug mafias, as part of a "National Crusade Against the Drug Traffic."

Barco warned that the struggle "will be a crusade that, unfortunately, will bring more bloodshed, but we will win this war," which transcends the country's borders.

The Colombian chief of state said: "Some of the traffickers' support networks are crumbling," and reiterated that he is prepared to go "as far as necessary" to wipe out the crime.

He added that today, Friday, \$65 million in U.S. aid was received. He said that his government will not rest until it has arrested the drug "capos."

"All Colombians have the moral and civic duty to denounce the drug organizations," the president said.

The declaration of war presupposes "the unity of all Colombians," he said, adding that the drug mafias must know that the country is committed to this.

The chief of state also announced that he will go to New York in September; and, although he did not give a specific date, he said he will address the United Nations to report on the serious drug problem that Colombia is facing.

In this regard, Barco said that Colombia will denounce the drug trafficking and will ask the world community for assistance in the struggle that it is waging, as well as to help control and reduce the consumption of drugs.

"Those who declared war on the Colombian people should know that the people have accepted the declaration as a challenge and will not retreat until they have achieved peace," the president said.

Barco reiterated that the drug traffickers want to "destabilize democracy." He agreed with Juan Manuel Galan, son of assassinated politician Luis Carlos Galan, who said on Sunday, during his father's funeral, that "The drug traffickers are not Colombians."

"Democracy will not yield to barbarism," Barco said. He added that his government "is committed to the defense of republican institutions."

The president later added: "We are experiencing difficult times, because the drug traffickers want to impose barbarism, but millions of Colombians want justice and peace, and we will win the battle."

Since 18 August, the Colombian Government has embarked upon an unprecedented offensive against the Medellin and Cali drug cartels, considered to be the main organizations for the processing and production of cocaine in the world.

Barco announced the offensive on the day after Colonel Waldemar Franklin Quintero, chief of police for Antioquia Department, was assassinated in the morning and presidential candidate Senator Luis Carlos Galan was slain in the evening.

Barco issued a declaration of war "against drug traffickers and terrorists," while Senator Galan was on his deathbed, and then announced the reestablishment of extradition procedures and the confiscation of assets.

Various Groups React to Speech

PA2708030689 Bogota Inravisión Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0115 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Report on reaction to President Virgilio Barco Vargas' speech on 26 August; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Although President Virgilio Barco Vargas said last night that this is not the time for disputes or political maneuvering, but rather the time for national unity, the Social Conservative Party has responded that the president's speech was sectarian. However, other sectors said that they agreed with Barco Vargas, who also said that he is prepared to go as far as necessary in the struggle against the narcoterrorists.

President Barco said that all Colombians have responsibilities if the war that is being waged in the country is to be won. He said that he will not rest until this crisis has been overcome; that is why severe measures have been taken, measures that are having concrete results.

[Barco] "Silence in the face of crime and tolerance of the drug traffickers is complicity. It opens the door to that foreign enemy that wants to invade society, weaken

democracy, corrupt the youth, usurp territories, and impose its regime of terror and barbarism. Every Colombian must be—and let this be very clear—a fighter for morality and for the fatherland."

Conservatives described Barco's speech as partisan, and said that it is a form of campaigning for the Liberal Party.

[Carlos Holguin Sardi, presidential hopeful for the Social Conservative Party] "It pains me to note that the president has used television as a weapon to campaign for a political party at such a dramatic and painful time as the present moment that the Republic is experiencing."

However, retired military personnel have expressed support for the government's measures and said that the Armed Forces are waging a struggle without quarter to see that justice is done.

[Jose Jaime Rodriguez, president of retired officers' organization, in progress] "...wiping out Colombia's enemies and making them subject to the law, with the coercive power available to the Armed Forces to apprehend those responsible and turn them over to the judges, so that they can be tried and convicted as the case merits."

Cesar Gaviria Trujillo, presidential hopeful of the Galanist Movement [a faction of the Liberal Party], expressed total support for the government, and said that the drug traffickers have stopped their illicit activities to begin attacking the democratic system.

[Gaviria] "There was no way to face up to the problem in these circumstances other than the measures that the national government has taken. I hope the measures are supported by all political parties, all social forces, and all Colombians."

In his speech last night, President Barco said that this war will cause more pain, bloodshed, and suffering; but he is certain that if the country is united, it will be victorious.

Action Taken on Drug Trafficking Suspects Reported

PA2508202489 Bogota Inravisión Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Last minute report: In confusing events, Police Lieutenant Alfredo Correa and one private were killed in Valle Department. No further information on this incident has been made available, other than that authorities are investigating the event.

It has also been reported that 10th Army Brigade members found and confiscated 2 metric tons of high-grade cocaine at La Moneda farm in Lechi, Cauca, at the border between Antioquia and Cordoba Departments. The drug was found in sealed waterproof packages in underground tunnels. This makes authorities believe the drug was ready to be air dropped over the sea to be picked up by drug traffickers. In addition, a large

number of arms, a sizable amount of ammunition, as well as automobiles and radio sets were confiscated. The drug was burned in the presence of judges and military authorities. A clandestine landing strip was also destroyed.

Arson seems to be the new criminal style used in Antioquia. In less than 24 hours, four farms have been set on fire. Three of these farms, located near Medellin, are owned by political and industrial leaders Edgar Gutierrez Castro, Ignacio Velez Escobar, and Augusto Lopez. The most recent of these incidents occurred at the Llano Grande Country Club early this morning. Several armed men showed up at the site and set the club on fire after threatening and beating up the watchmen. The amount of the losses has not yet been determined. The manager did not allow reporters into the place. It was reported, however, that the attackers identified themselves as extraditables who said the action was being taken in reprisal for the government actions against them. The armed men left the place shouting that their reaction has just begun and that their struggle will continue. Further damage to the club and the loss of human life were prevented by workers who reacted promptly.

The Colombian Government has taken measures to counteract these actions. The Army this afternoon will receive the initial U.S. tactical support as part of the new antiterrorist offensive, government sources have reported. U.S. military cargo planes will fly to Colombia armed twin-turbine Bell-212 helicopters. In addition, the Pentagon will ship radio communications equipment. The helicopters will be flown by Colombian military crews, U.S. State Department sources said in Washington. For the time being, both George Bush's administration and Virgilio Barco's government are not considering the presence of U.S. military in Colombia.

Over the past 72 hours, the Army raided five farms, one home, and a bar-restaurant owned by Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, Camilo Zapata, and Pablo Escobar Gaviria. The raids were conducted by 13th Brigade troops in Chia, Pacho, and Bogota. This farm, known as El Castillo de Marroquin, owned by Zapata and estimated to be worth more than 100 billion pesos, was raided on Wednesday afternoon. According to the Army, this veritable fortress, located on the El Comun bridge, was managed by retired Police Major Alvaro Tovar Tovar. Luxurious cars, a gold-ornamented chapel, a swimming pool fitted with a heating system, 15 stables with fine horses, a tennis court, and the impressive castle all make up a farm worth millions. Extensive gardens, long trails, and an attractive lake complement the wonderful natural landscape of the real estate right by the Bogota northern freeway. There are exotic adornments on the walls. For instance, there is a Botero painting worth 4 million pesos. In one room, there were many electric appliances and a full radio communications set. This exorbitant wealth is further evidenced by the presence of a witchcraft room.

A total of 13 people worked at the fortress. One of them reports:

[Begin recording] [Retired police commander] I am a pensioner of the Phillips Corporation. I was hired to work here, but I did not know what was going on.

[Reporter] What were you told when you were hired?

[Retired policeman] I was offered a job. I accepted because I was out of work.

[Reporter] Were you ever told about the origin of the money of the property owners?

[Retired policeman] No, nothing. I do not even know them. I only know Camilo Zapata, Jr. [end recording]

The two Bell-212 helicopters referred to earlier in this report will arrive in Bogota this afternoon. The DEA [Drug Enforcement Administration] plane to be used to extradite to the United States any drug traffickers captured by Colombian authorities is parked in one of the hangars at the Cattán military airport. President Barco told the ABC Television Network that there are six persons detained who will be extradited. In addition, the agencies in charge of enforcing the four government decrees started to implement them today. The civil aeronautics authorities are awaiting a governors' report on the number of landing strips in their departments, the names of the landing strip owners, and the use to which these strips have been put. Criminal lawyers have discovered ambiguities in the decree that increases penalties for accumulating wealth through illegal means.

[Begin recording] [Penal lawyer Antonio Jose Cancino] We have to have it clear in our minds that the decree has to do with a particular way of accumulating wealth, not the accumulation that originates in crime. We have to be very careful here, lest we commit grievous injustices against people who have accumulated wealth by perfectly legal means. [end recording]

The public order higher tribunal has also begun to examine the real estate still occupied by the military to determine if it is to be transferred to the state or returned to the owners.

Cartel Properties Raided

PA2608003089 Bogota Inravisión Television Cadena 1
in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Report by Alvaro Velis Isaza from Rio Hacha]

[Text] Under a huge closet, inside a residence located right in the middle of Medellin, 4th Brigade authorities found what they believe is a people's jail [carcel del pueblo]. In other places they found a school for hired assassins and weapons caches were found. These places lodged up to 40 security men who are working for the drug traffickers, just like here at El Biscocho farm, which was raided in March 1988, but was recovered and

outfitted again by Pablo Escobar. Machineguns, grenades, and rockets were found behind walls inside the hideouts. These weapons will be counted today as part of the arsenal that already surpasses 5,000 items.

These properties, all belonging to the Medellin Cartel, are primarily owned by the Escobar Gaviria and Ochoa Vasquez clans. According to the keepers, none of them have returned, while everything inside remains in perfect order. A man makes a monthly visit, and pays the keepers' wages so that everything is kept up. There are unopened vaults, castles for children to play in, and porcelain worth millions—objects that force one to think because the price of just one could support a low-income family for over 1 year. Las Aguilas, which is more of an extravagant and ostentatious monument than a farm, is owned by Pablo Escobar Gaviria and is so far the most valuable and luxurious property raided by the authorities.

Medellin Mayor Offers Talks

PA2608154589 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish
1825 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Medellin, Colombia, 25 Aug (REUTER)—Medellin Mayor Juan Gomez Martinez has said that he is willing to hold talks with drug traffickers and guerrillas because "war cannot be ended by eliminating one of the parties involved."

In statements for the local press, Gomez said that "we are facing a very difficult situation. I hope that we will gain consciousness of the problems we are experiencing and that the people will cooperate with the authorities. [no end quotation marks as received]

The mayor's statements were revealed after a number of attacks against the Medellin headquarters of the Conservative and Liberal parties and three farms owned by political leaders at dawn on 24 August.

A mayoral office spokesman confirmed the mayor's statements for REUTER today, but refused to explain how such a dialogue could take place.

Mayor Gomez today held a number of meetings to discuss the situation in Medellin since the "war declaration" made by the drug traffickers of the powerful cartel headquartered in this city.

When questioned about it, the mayor's secretary Mireya Gomez said that this was a meeting to discuss public order issues, but offered no further details.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Judges Association of Antioquia State, whose capital is Medellin, said that its members have not received direct threats as their colleagues in Cali have, but he added that each judge is being guarded by eight policemen.

Government 'Doubts' Guerrilla Peace Commitment

PA2508235889 Bogota Inravisión Television Cadena 1
in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Report by Raul Gutierrez]

[Text] Although the government has many doubts about the sincerity of the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board's commitment to the peace effort, the government has appointed a commission made up of (Jose Noe Rios), deputy government minister; Rafael Pardo, presidential adviser for peace and reconciliation; and Ricardo Santamaria, Pardo's adviser. Their mission will be to seek an agreement with the guerrillas concerning a new peace initiative, the site and date for such a meeting, as well as the conditions for disarmament and demobilization and how society will accept the subversives.

[Begin recording] [Government Minister Orlando Vasquez] The government is very worried that there is no clear evidence of any political willingness for a peace process. If the political violence does not come to an end, undoubtedly there is no sincerity on the part of the guerrillas for the peace effort. [end recording]

This peace commission will seek a dialogue only with the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia], the Popular Liberation Army, the Quintin Lame Commando Unit, and the Revolutionary Front of the Workers. It will have no contact with the ELN [Army of National Liberation], which has claimed credit for the terrorist attacks on the oil installations.

Gacha Finance Chief Reportedly Arrested

PA2608204289 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish
1845 GMT 26 Aug 89

[By Alberto Arebalos]

[Text] Medellin, Colombia, 26 Aug (REUTER)—Military sources reported today that over the past few hours the chief of finance of Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, alias the Mexican, a man who was being intensively sought by the United States, has been arrested, an action that Colombian officials have described as one of the most severe setbacks for Medellin drug traffickers. Rodriguez Gacha's son has also been arrested.

Luis Fernando Galeano, nicknamed El Negro, who was arrested yesterday by forces from the 4th Army Brigade in La Ceja Municipality, 42 km east of Medellin, is believed to be the Mexican's chief of finance. Sources from that Army brigade have told REUTER that now the Colombian authorities will wait for an extradition request from the United States. Galeano is being held in a military barracks.

The sources said that Galeano has the trust of another Medellin Cartel boss, Pablo Escobar, who is suspected to have organized several assassinations, including that of a Jewish businessman, John Naser, whom the Medellin Cartel accused of being a traitor and an informer.

The sources said that Galeano used to go to Spain and to Central American countries fairly frequently to manage Rodriguez Gacha's finances.

Early Thursday morning, Rodriguez Gacha's son, 17-year-old Freddy Rodriguez Celades, and seven bodyguards were arrested in the municipality of Pacho, near Bogota. In May, the young man was arrested and later released. The sources said that a warrant for his arrest was issued afterward.

The sources said that in the raid on the Buenos Aires farm, in Pacho, and on a farm 14 km south of Medellin, the authorities found arsenals of machineguns and sub-machineguns of Israeli and U.S. manufacture.

The name of the owner of the farm raided yesterday near Medellin has not been revealed by the authorities so that the investigations are not obstructed. A 4th Army Brigade officer said: "This is just the beginning. As we carry out more raids we find more documents that produce new investigations. This is just the beginning."

Following the "total war" declaration issued on Thursday by the "Extraditables," there were attacks in Medellin on the headquarters of the Liberal and Conservative parties and on three private farms, and two bombs were defused at the two most important radio network stations.

Last night, an attempt to blow up an Immediate Attention Center (small houses occupied by policemen assigned to crime prevention tasks) failed when the policemen repelled the attackers, the sources said.

Last night sporadic shooting was heard in Medellin, but the authorities have not reported on this.

Medellin is where the powerful Medellin Cartel has its headquarters. This cartel and the Cali Cartel control 80 percent of the hundreds of millions worth of drugs that are smuggled into the United States annually.

Since last Friday, when the Virgilio Barco Administration announced repressive measures against drug traffickers following the assassination of the police commander of Antioquia Department and of Liberal Party leader Luis Galan, the Medellin Cartel has suffered severe setbacks—dozens of mansions have been confiscated and hundreds of alleged members of the organization have been arrested.

Bombs Explode in 7 Bank Branches in Medellin

PA2708155989 Paris AFP in Spanish 1519 GMT
27 Aug 89

[Text] Medellin, 27 Aug (AFP)—Today, Medellin, Colombia's second largest city, once again experienced a terrorist escalation when seven bank branch offices were shaken by explosives that caused heavy damage but no fatalities, according to radio reports broadcast in Bogota (500 km to the south).

The targets of the attacks were the Banco Cafetero branches and its offices in Medellin's middle, western, and southeastern areas.

According to preliminary reports, over 55 kg of dynamite were used in the attacks. The radio report added that the police defused another 20 kg of explosives that had slow burning fuses.

The Medellin Cartel operates in this city located in Colombia's northeastern area. For several days now, the city has been shaken by army and police operations in an unprecedented action to capture drug lords.

No one has claimed responsibility for the terrorist attacks, which lasted for 1 hour.

Nine Explosions Reported

PA2808024089 Bogota Inravisión Television Cadena 1
in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Report by Ana Maria Rios]

[Text] In a declared war that has seen no respite in Medellin, nine bombs exploded in several banks today. The first seven explosive devices went off at Banco Cafetero branches between 0100 and 0300 and virtually destroyed the offices. Early in the morning, the metropolitan police defused three more bombs, one with 10 and two each with 5 kg of dynamite at other Banco Cafetero branches. Two men were detained in a Renault car, with license plate QA4167.

The wave of attacks resumed at 1630. This time the target was the Banco de Colombia office in the America sector and Banco del Estado on Colombia Street. A Goodyear office and the offices and apartment buildings beside all branches were damaged extensively. Only one casualty resulted, apparently one of the men who planted the bomb at the Banco de Colombia.

Ecuador

Minister on Possible Presence of Drug Traffickers

PA2708021989 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1827 GMT
26 Aug 89

[Text] Quito, 26 August (DPA)—Ecuador today conceded the possibility that there may be Colombian drug traffickers in Ecuadoran territory, although it emphasized that border controls have been reinforced "to prevent the spread of violence and terror."

Asked about the possible presence of members of the Medellin Cartel, Interior Minister Andres Vallejo said: "It is possible. However, there are quite reliable reports that they (the drug traffickers) have more likely fled to other countries."

The minister revealed that a financing company, which he did not identify, was closed by the government

because it was found to be laundering dollars obtained from the trafficking. "There will be no mercy in such cases," he said.

Over the past few days, press reports mentioned Ecuador as one of the countries in which the top leaders of the Medellin Cartel had reportedly taken refuge to escape the actions launched by the Colombian Government following a series of assassinations committed by the drug mafias. Early this week, Ecuador reinforced its extensive border with Colombia to keep the drug traffickers out.

Assessing the status of drugs in Ecuador, the minister admitted that "several large estates have been purchased by people who appear to be linked to the drug traffic." However, he expressed the opinion that these purchases were linked to money laundering rather than the production of drugs.

Vallejo also said that Ecuador has "severely" restricted imports of chemical substances used in the preliminary phases of the refining of narcotics. Former free access to those substances had been converting the country into an alternative base for the production and shipment of drugs to the United States and Western Europe.

Paraguay

Rodriguez Allows SEAS Members To Remain

PY2608174089 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
26 Aug 89 p 1

[Text] President Andres Rodriguez has told the press that social workers Antonio Cagna and Silvano Tesi may stay in the country. He said that the Executive Branch, through the Interior Ministry, will take no further steps on this matter. President Rodriguez said: "Yesterday the Labor Appellate Court overturned a ruling which had allowed the Education and Social Help (SEAS) members to remain in the country. The Appellate Court ruling confirmed the Executive Branch's right, in keeping with the immigration law, to decide whether foreigners may remain in the national territory. However, in view of the democratic process in the country, and the need to establish a harmonious national coexistence, we decided to heed the request by the SEAS members. When they entered the country, they said they wanted to cooperate with us in the task of constructing a modern and democratic Paraguay and to contribute to the national development. Based on that, I instructed the proper authorities to allow the SEAS members to remain in Paraguay. I made this decision because I believe that these two men, who have married Paraguayan women, will work hard to bring peace to the country and to find solutions to our national problems."

President Rodriguez made these comments at a news conference in Encarnacion.

Honduras Refuses Extradition of Montanaro

PY2708232089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1913 GMT
26 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 26 Aug (EFE)—Today a Honduran judge denied Paraguay's request for the extradition of former Paraguayan Interior Minister Sabino Augusto Montanaro.

The former minister sought refuge in the Honduran Embassy in Asuncion when General Alfredo Stroessner's military regime was overthrown in February 1989. In March Montanaro traveled to Tegucigalpa, where the authorities granted him political asylum. [passage omitted]

Arrest of Stroessner's Son Requested in Brazil

PY2608161689 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
26 Aug 89 p 22

[Excerpts] According to a communique from the Paraguayan Embassy in Brasilia, the embassy has already requested the Brazilian court's cooperation to arrest Gustavo Stroessner Mora who is being prosecuted in our country for crimes against the public administration, corruption, and dishonest business dealings [venalidad].

A passage of the communique says: "Mr Stroessner Mora is charged by the Paraguayan court with carrying out illegal activities, as the son of the nation's president, which supposedly yielded him profits of some 200 billion guaranies."

The communique says that investigations carried out in the prosecution of Gustavo Stroessner have turned up sufficient evidence of common crimes. It also points out that the extradition request is being made in conformity with the treaty signed between the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Republic of Paraguay on 24 February 1922 and later ratified on 22 May 1925 through an exchange of notes. [passage omitted]

Strangely enough, according to phone and wire information, Itamaraty Press Secretary Ewaldo Tress said yesterday that the Brazilian Foreign Ministry has not received the Paraguayan request. Tress said: "Up to now, Itamaraty has not received the request for the extradition of Gustavo Stroessner Mora." Asked whether there was any chance that the request had been filed with some particular office in the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, Tress replied: "We do not have anything official."

Another Itamaraty spokesman, Rui Nogueira, also noted that the Paraguayan request has not "so far" been received. He added that Justice Ministry procedures could delay the extradition request's arrival at the Supreme Court of Brazil for a final ruling. [passage omitted]

Congressional Committee To Investigate Incident

PY2408145689 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
24 Aug 89 p 2

[Text] Deputy Dionisio Nicolas Frutos of the Colorado Party, president of the Chamber of Deputies Human Rights Committee, has said that it is difficult to tell whether the incident between peasants and a police unit in Alto Parana is an isolated incident or the beginning of tension—which may have violent repercussions—due to the delay in finding a quick solution to the land problem. He added: "At any rate we should pay close attention to this event."

The committee will go to Puerto Indio, 120 km from Ciudad del Este, as soon as weather conditions allow, to investigate the incident that occurred last week.

Frutos admitted that the government organizations in charge of preparing and implementing the plans for an overall agrarian reform are not taking the necessary steps to ease the tension created by land problems, especially in the border region of Alto Parana. He said: "We believe that an overall solution—not a partial one—should be found to this problem."

Frutos added that there is fear that conditions for violence are being created. He said: "That is why we want to learn the scope of this incident, so that we have enough evidence to form a just opinion."

Frutos also referred to the report prepared by the Alto Parana police in Puerto Indio. According to the report, the security forces acted on a legal order to evict several families who have been living on the land for over 10 years. The report indicates that the policemen were repelled with "sticks and machetes" by the peasants. Frutos added that "apparently the policemen had instructions not to react and that is why there was no armed clash."

Frutos said that if the peasants have been living on that land for 10 or 12 years, that situation "can be considered real colonization. In that case, therefore, the settlement must be legalized. If it was a clandestine settlement, however, we believe that the situation does not create rights."

Government Ratifies Human Rights Convention

PY2508224789 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish
25 Aug 89 p 11

[Excerpts] Paraguay yesterday ratified the American Convention on Human Rights, and Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana said that those rights "are not negotiable and do not allow any restrictions except those established in its juridical framework."

Argana ratified the Pact of San Jose convention before OAS Secretary General Joao Clemente Baena Soares and OAS ambassadors.

Argana said that "we are aware that the defense and promotion of human rights in Paraguay cannot end just because Paraguay has joined the group of nations that ratified the convention.... Today we begin a commitment assumed by the Paraguayan Government and people in the search to perfect democracy.... We will commit our will and best effort to the search for that ideal." [passage omitted]

Argana said that the new Paraguayan Government "understands that a democratic government can only be established within a juridical framework respectful of human rights.... Respect for human rights and the full implementation of these rights are essential conditions for developing a legitimate state of law.... Democracy and its postulates can never flourish when freedom is curtailed, thoughts muzzled, and justice degraded, and when man, the reason for the existence of law, is stripped of his essential nature." [passage omitted]

Chamber of Deputies Repeals 'Repressive' Laws

PY2508230189 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish
25 Aug 89 p 9

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies yesterday approved, to a standing ovation, the bill repealing the repressive laws No 294/55 on the defense of democracy and No 209/70 on the defense of public peace and freedom of the people. The document will now be sent to the president for promulgation because the Senate has already approved it.

According to the document, Penal Code Articles 163, 274, 275, and 394 of law No 78 dated 18 June 1914 will become effective again.

Deputy Julio Cesar Vasconsellos stressed the importance of the document, adding that the repealed laws were used to implement the "Stroessnerist-style peace" which he called "night-stick peace."

Vasconsellos said that laws 209 and 294 created the conditions for the 3 February coup.

Ricardo Lugo Rodriguez of the PRF [Febrerista Revolutionary Party] recalled that numerous people were persecuted on the basis of this laws, including Domingo Laino, [no first name as published] Acevedo, Juan C. Zaldivar, and Enrique Sanchez, and praised those who struggle for respect for human rights, Msg Mario Melanio Medina and Carmen de Lara Castro [human rights activists] among others were present during the voting.

Deputy Francisco Jose de Vargas said that the laws that were repealed "were two of the main causes that triggered the revolution." The Chamber of Deputies also approved a bill creating the National Commission of Human Rights.

Peru**U.S. Urged To Increase Internal Drug Fight**

PY2708235489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2008 GMT
27 Aug 89

[Text] Lima, 27 Aug (EFE)—Senator Armando Villanueva, former Peruvian prime minister, today in Lima stressed that it is now time for Latin America to know what is currently going on with drug trafficking in the United States, which "is responsible" for the consumption of drugs.

Villanueva proposed that an inter-American organization be created that will have access to U.S. plans against the illegal drug trafficking "in the same way that the United States wants to help with the information it collects about our campaigns."

It is all very well that the United States wants to help us, but the time has come to help that country, because there is not much morality in a country where some authorities permit the existence of crime and gangs that use drug trafficking terrorism," he stressed during a news conference at Lima's airport.

Villanueva reiterated that the United States is "basically" responsible for drug consumption, and he commented that the mafias existing in that country have not been dismantled.

He added that he has a lot of respect for the United States and admiration for its people, but that he has to acknowledge that if the United States does not carry out the "fundamental battle" against the consumers and the U.S. or international mafias, then "it is going to be very difficult for us to resolve the problem on our own."

He stressed that no one has taken more steps to dismantle the drug organizations than Latin America, and he mentioned the actions that are being carried out by Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, and Peru.

Villanueva returned to Lima today after participating in a Caracas meeting of Andean Group political parties.

Police Doubt Colombians' Presence in Jungle

PY2708034089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0133 GMT
27 Aug 89

[Text] Lima, 26 Aug (EFE)—A high-ranking official of the Peruvian Narcotics Department said today that he doubts that members of the so-called Medellin Cartel are taking refuge in the Peruvian jungle.

He said: "A coordinated effort has been made with DEA agents, but nothing has been confirmed. However, we are staying alert."

The high-ranking police official, who asked EFE to remain anonymous, said that the drug traffickers with great "economic power" never choose to hide in neighboring countries.

The Peruvian daily EL NACIONAL, which published a report from the Colombian Radio Caracol, said that seven members of the Medellin Cartel secretly entered Peru to hold a meeting "to prepare actions related to the harsh repression against them."

In brief comments the police official said: "I believe they (the members of the Medellin Cartel) could have taken refuge in South Africa."

New Fishing Contract Signed With USSR

PY2608023789 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish
18 Aug 89 p 7

[Text] The Peruvian Government has signed a new fishing contract with the USSR providing for the operation of a modern Soviet scientific ship, implementation of joint oceanographic research, and evaluation of our fishing resources.

This new contract—of which Peruvians were not aware, but a copy of which is in our hands—will allow the Soviet ships to quickly and easily operate in Peruvian territorial waters. According to the terms of the contract, the Soviets will be better able to determine locations where they can fish more easily.

This new "scientific research" contract has been signed by Admiral Ricardo Zevallos Newton, retired, president of the Sea Institute of Peru (IMARPE), and by Anatoliy Alekseyevich Elizarov [name as published] for the Fishing Research Oceanographic Institute (VNIRO) of the Soviet Ministry of the Fish Industry.

The contract, signed on 15 July, states that the VNIRO will cooperate scientifically with IMARPE to determine the amount of fish that can be caught and the commercial potential of the fish and mollusk reserves within Peru's 200 miles of territorial waters.

The Soviet scientific ship, which will arrive in Peru in September, is among the 27 Soviet ships that will operate in the Grau Sea.

The ship, the "Fritof Nansen" [as published], will carry out its research operations during September and October, and in November and December it will carry out a multidisciplinary cruise. The contract ends in December but can be extended for 1 more year.

The 2,062-gross-ton ship has been authorized to catch 500 tons of jurel, mackerel, hake, sardine, anchovy, squid, and other species.

Justice Minister Delgado Resigns 26 Aug

PY2608025989 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish
0100 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Justice Minister Cesar Delgado Barreto submitted his irrevocable resignation today, saying that he made this decision after the agreement between the American Revolutionary Popular Alliance and the Christian Democratic Party came to an end.

[Begin Delgado recording] The two political parties signed an agreement in 1985 to work together during Alan Garcia's presidential term. We believe that, as we approach a new electoral process, each political force should follow its own path. This does not in any way mean a rupture. We are democratic parties that believe that the values of justice and freedom are essential in any society, especially in Peruvian society. Therefore, we will continue to cooperate in those areas, but we will not continue to participate in the cabinet. This is why I have submitted my irrevocable resignation. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Efrain Obregoso Named New Education Minister
PY2508165489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0438 GMT
25 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Lima, 24 Aug (EFE)—Peruvian President Alan Garcia today announced that he accepted the resignation of Education Minister Mercedes Cabanillas, who will run as the ruling American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) candidate for the post of mayor of Lima.

Garcia said that Cabanillas will be replaced by former Deputy Education Minister Efrain Obregoso.

Cabanillas has thus left the post of minister 2 years and 2 months after the designation in June 1987, when she became the second woman to have ever been appointed to a ministerial post in the history of the Peruvian republican system of government. [passage omitted]

List of Lima Mayoral Candidates Released
PY2608173889 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish
15 Aug 89 p 5

[Text] Yesterday 10 candidates for Lima Mayor registered at the Provincial Electoral Court.

Official sources have reported that the complete list of candidates for provincial mayors and municipal councilmen will be published in the official newspaper EL PERUANO on 18 or 21 August at the latest.

Once the list is published the candidates may be challenged and the Provincial Electoral Court will have 3 days to resolve all challenges.

It has also been reported that the new National Electoral Court will be installed today, 15 August, and will immediately set the date for its first public hearing.

Here is a list of Lima mayoral candidates and their political affiliations:

- Henry Pease Garcia for the United Left
- Juan Inchaustegui for the Democratic Front
- Mercedes Cabanillas for the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance
- Enrique Bernales for the Socialist Accord
- Carlos Caceres Barrionuevo for the National Front of Workers and Peasants

- Angel Rovegno for the Independent Social Movement [Movimiento Social Independiente]
- Ricardo Belmont Cassinelli for the OBRAS [expansion unknown]
- Juan Campos Arredondo for the National Vanguard Party [Partido Avanzada Nacional]
- Claudio Sergio Garcia Pando for the Independent Democratic Union [Unidad Democratica Independiente]
- Juan Tapia for the Social Workers Party [Partido Social Obrero]

Nuclear Center Dedicates New Laboratory
PY2508214789 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish
21 Aug 89 p A-3

[Excerpt] Research reactor RP-10 at the "Oscar Miro Quesada de la Guerra" nuclear center has been put to a new scientific application: a "neutrography laboratory" ["laboratorio de neutrografia"] that has just been dedicated at the cost of \$40,000.

It was dedicated by CONCYTEC [National Science and Technology Council] President Carlos del Rio Cabrera. This institution had strongly supported the project, which was proposed by experts from the Peruvian Nuclear Energy Institute (IPEN) with the cooperation of the Science College of the National Engineering University.

The equipment was obtained under a Peruvian-Argentine agreement. [passage omitted]

Venezuela

Perez Reportedly Planning Cabinet Reshuffle
PA2608050289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0413 GMT
26 Aug 89

[Text] Caracas, 25 Aug (EFE)—Venezuelan news media and sources close to the government said President Carlos Andres Perez today asked for the resignation of his ministers. However, this report has not been confirmed.

Caracas Television Channel 2 reported in its midnight newscast that Perez requested the resignations due to disagreements with some ministers, including Foreign Minister Enrique Tejera, whose work on the Panama crisis the president disapproved.

Sources close to the government questioned by EFE confirmed that Perez is preparing to reshuffle his cabinet. However, official media and spokesmen were silent on the matter.

Local political circles commented also that if the resignations report is confirmed, it will be Perez' first cabinet crisis since taking office on 2 February.

The cabinet of the social democrat leader, who governed Venezuela from 1974 to 1979, consists of ministers who are chiefly experts and leaders of his Democratic Action Party.

The cabinet's economic experts have played a key role in the past 6 months of government because they implemented a very unpopular economic austerity plan and managed negotiations of the foreign debt, which at \$30 billion is the fourth largest in Latin America.

According to Channel Two, Finance Minister Eglee Iturbe, one of the government officials in charge of drafting the measures, has also lost Perez' confidence.

Moreover, Iturbe has had to give testimony on several occasions regarding the country's corruption scandal and the delivery of state foreign exchange to importers under the previous administration—the Jaime Lusinchi administration—in which Iturbe served as deputy minister. Perez met today with high-ranking leaders of his party, which has been linked by the local media to the possible cabinet changes.

Replaces 6 Ministers

PA2608225989 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2123 GMT
26 Aug 89

[Text] Caracas, 26 Aug (DPA)—A little more than 6 months after taking charge of the Venezuelan Government, President Carlos Andres Perez has carried out his first cabinet change by replacing six of his ministers, including Foreign Minister Enrique Tejera Paris, who it was announced unofficially will be replaced by Reinaldo Figueredo Planchart, current minister of the Secretariat of the Presidency.

The announcement of the cabinet resignation en masse this morning took Venezuelans by surprise, although during the past few days political sources and news media had echoed rumors of possible changes in the ruling Democratic Action Party [AD], which took office last 2 February.

Questioned by journalists on leaving Miraflores Palace, Perez denied today that he had asked some of his ministers to resign. "My minister friends considered that, after spending 6 months in a government as complex as this one, it was time to give me an opportunity to make a reorganization," he said. Although the official cabinet list will be announced tomorrow when the six new ministers are sworn in, government circles stated that the chief of state has not modified the composition of the economic cabinet, seeking to render stability to the team negotiating the Venezuelan foreign debt with private banks.

In this way, Miguel Rodriguez, minister of coordination and planning, who heads the negotiating commission, and Eglee de Blanco Iturbe, finance minister, have remained in their posts. In addition to the post of foreign minister, the ministries of health and social welfare,

labor, agriculture and livestock, transport and communications, and family will have new incumbents. Some ministers, such as Labor Minister Marisela Padron, who will become minister of family, will remain in the cabinet. Jesus Carmona, who until now was attorney general of the Republic, will be the minister of the Secretariat of the Presidency. It was learned last night that Interior Minister Alejandro Izaguirre asked his colleagues to tender their resignations to allow President Perez to change his government team due to the particularly difficult political moment.

Perez' party has been exposed to investigations for corruption by former AD administrations, and has been subjected to pressures by unions which have announced a possible "disruption of order" if the government does not prolong until December the prohibition of layoffs, currently in existence.

According to observers, however, the Foreign Ministry headed by Enrique Tejera Paris has been the principal target of internal criticism in the past few weeks.

The announcement by Foreign Ministry sources that Venezuela reportedly will break relations with Panama if there is not a change of government there on 1 September and the signing of a controversial border treaty with Trinidad and Tobago have elicited strong criticism from the opposition.

It has been learned that the hardline position adopted by the Venezuelan delegation at the recent OAS foreign ministers meeting in Washington was contrary to the position of Perez, who appears to favor a negotiated solution to the Panamanian crisis.

Venezuela suffered a political defeat when the Latin American foreign ministers rejected by majority the Venezuelan position, supported by the United States, considering it interventionist.

The decision to reshuffle the cabinet was learned only 1 day before the crucial AD elections to pick the candidates for the posts of governors, majors, and councilmen for the 3 December regional and municipal elections.

Reinaldo Figueredo Planchart, the new 51-year-old foreign minister, is an economist with several degrees from Venezuelan and European universities.

Figueredo Planchart, considered an "unconditional" supporter of Perez, has held posts in private banking, in the Foreign Ministry, and represented his country before diverse international organizations, such as the United Nations, the Cartagena Agreement Commission, and the International Monetary Fund, where he held the post of deputy governor.

Appoints 7 New Ministers

PA2708022389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0133 GMT
27 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Caracas, 26 Aug (EFE)—Seven new ministers were appointed by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez today in his first cabinet reshuffle since he took office last February.

Pastor Heydra, director of the Central Information Office (OCI), announced the list of the new ministers who will be sworn in tomorrow by the president at the government palace.

The new ministers are: Reinaldo Figueredo, foreign relations; Jesus Carmons, secretariat of the presidency; Eugenio de Armas, agriculture and livestock; Edgar Osuna, transport and communications; Marisela Padron, family; Manuel Adrianza, health and social welfare; and German Lairer, labor.

The rest of the cabinet will be composed of Alejandro Izaguirre, interior; Eglee de Blanco Iturbe, finance; Filmo Lopez, defense; Moises Naim, development; Gustavo Roosen, education; Luis Beltran Guerra, justice; Celestino Armas, energy and mines; Enrique Colmenares Finol, environment and natural resources; Luis Penzini Fleury, urban development; and Miguel Rodriguez, coordination and planning. [passage omitted]

Issues Decree 423

PA2708171989 Caracas Venezolana de Television
Canal 8 in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Presidential Decree 423 issued by President Carlos Andres Perez in Caracas on 27 August—read by "the secretary of the Council of Ministers"]

[Text] Republic of Venezuela

Presidency
Decree 423

Exercising the power granted by Paragraph 2 of Constitutional Article 190, Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez decrees:

Article 1: I accept the resignation tendered by the cabinet ministers.

Article 2: I appoint:

Alejandro Izaguirre as interior minister;
Reinaldo Figueredo Planchart as foreign minister;
Eglee Iturbe de Blanco as finance minister;
Aviation Division General Filmo Lopez Uzcategui as defense minister;
Moises Naim as development minister;
Gustavo Roosen as education minister;
Manuel Adrianza as health and social welfare minister;
Eugenio de Armas as agriculture and livestock minister;
German Lairer as labor minister;
Edgar Elias Osuna as transport and communications minister;

Luis Beltran Guerra as justice minister;
Celestino Armas as energy and mines minister;
Enrique Colmenares Finol as environment and renewable natural resources minister;
Luis Penzini Fleury as urban development minister;
Marisela Padron as family minister; and
Jesus Ramon Carmona Borjas as Presidency Secretariat minister.

Issued in Caracas on 27 August 1989
179th year of Venezuelan independence and 130th year of the Venezuelan federation
[Signed] President Carlos Andres Perez

Issues Decree 424

PA2708182989 Caracas Venezolana de Television
Canal 8 in Spanish 1603 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Presidential Decree 424 issued by President Carlos Andres Perez in Caracas on 27 August—read by "the secretary of the Council of Ministers"]

[Text] Republic of Venezuela

Presidency
Decree 424

Exercising the power granted in Paragraph 2 of Constitutional Article 190 and in Constitutional Article 194, and in accordance with what is established in Articles 13 and 41 of the organic law of the government administration; in Articles 9, 12, and 13 of the National Culture Council Law; in Articles 19 and 20 of Decree 676 issued on 21 June 1985, which includes the organic law regulating the development of the Guayana region; in Articles 9 and 12 of the Venezuelan Investment Fund Law; in Articles 10 and 15 of the Scientific and Technological Research National Council Law; and Article 13 of the law regulating tourism in Venezuela, President Carlos Andres Perez decrees:

Single Article: I appoint:

Miguel Rodriguez as minister of state. Rodriguez is appointed as chief of the Presidency Planning and Coordination Central Office;
Jose Antonio Abreu as minister of state. Abreu is appointed president of the National Culture Council;
Leopoldo Sucre Figarella as minister of state. Sucre is appointed as president of the Venezuelan Corporation of Guayana [CVG]. Sucre is also in charge of directing the state enterprises placed within the CVG jurisdiction;
Eduardo Quintero as minister of state. Quintero is appointed president of the Venezuelan Investment Fund;
Dulce Arnao de Uzcategui as minister of state in charge of science and technology. Uzcategui is appointed president of the Scientific and Technological Research National Council;
Armando Duran as minister of state. Duran is appointed president of the Tourism Corporation of Venezuela;
Aura Loreto de Rangel as minister of state for the promotion of women; and

Carlos Blanco as minister of state for state reforms.

Issued in Caracas on 27 August 1989

179th year of Venezuelan independence and 130th year of the Venezuelan federation

[Signed] President Carlos Andres Perez

Possible Break in Panamanian Relations Reported

PA2508155989 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1523 GMT
25 Aug 89

[Text] Caracas, 25 Aug (DPA)—Venezuela might break diplomatic relations with Panama if there is no transfer of power by 1 September, according to the Panamanian Constitution, was the consensus opinion of the Caracas media today.

Members of the Venezuelan delegation that participated in the recent OAS foreign ministers' meeting in Washington said that a rupture of diplomatic relations with Panama is one of the sanctions being considered in case General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, refuses to leave his post by 1 September.

The first step to sanction the Panamanian Government was, according to the sources, the withdrawal of Venezuela's ambassador to Panama, Faustino Pulgar Gruber.

An OAS mission tried to find, without results, a solution to the political crisis in Panama that broke out after the electoral authorities annulled the 7 May elections that unofficially gave the victory to the opposition.

The Panamanian Constitution states that an institutional change must occur by 1 September. This is the topic of conversations that have been held among the military, the government, and the opposition, but have nevertheless failed to achieve results.

Venezuela maintains a position of confrontation with Gen Noriega's regime and demands his removal from power. Venezuelan diplomats presented a motion at the OAS foreign ministers' meeting, supported by the United States, condemning the Panamanian military leader and demanded his removal.

Nevertheless, the proposal was turned down by a majority because it was considered "interventionist," and the foreign ministers sponsored a negotiated solution to the crisis, without foreign intervention.

New Minister Calls Panama 'Priority Issue'

PA2708192789 Paris AFP in Spanish 1811 GMT
27 Aug 89

[Text] Caracas, 27 Aug (AFP)—According to statements to the press by new Venezuelan Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueredo in Caracas today, the Panamanian and Colombian situations and Venezuela's admission into the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] will be the priorities of the Venezuelan foreign minister.

Figueredo, who was the Presidency Secretariat minister until Friday, 25 August, was sworn in today by President Carlos Andres Perez as the new Venezuelan foreign minister. Figueredo will travel to Belgrade, Yugoslavia, next week to participate in the NAM summit, during which Venezuela's admission into the movement should be finalized.

Figueredo replaces economist and lawyer Enrique Tejera, who has been the Venezuelan foreign minister since February.

In his first statements as foreign minister, Figueredo said the Panama issue will be the priority issue in his office.

The new foreign minister said: "I will meet with Tejera to discuss the Panamanian situation and the points discussed by the OAS. The Venezuelan Government's efforts to defend the basic principle of self-determination and to help each country achieve its own democracy are well-known."

Political analysts have stated that Perez withdrew Tejera from his post as foreign minister because "he failed to interpret his position regarding Panama," while he would be very closely identified with Figueredo in that regard.

Relations between Panama and Venezuela became so tense after the annulment of the Panamanian general elections that Perez withdrew his ambassador to Panama.

Foreign Minister Figueredo said: "We will spare no effort to help Panama find its own solution. It is up to the Panamanians to make a decision and it is up to us, the Latin American peoples who are concerned about Panama's achievements, including the Torrijos-Carter treaties, to make sure they are respected."

Analysts said today that Venezuela begins a new international offensive with the appointment of Figueredo only a few days before the NAM summit and Perez' tour through several Asian countries, and less than 2 months away from French President Francois Mitterrand's visit to Caracas.

Further Report on Comments

PA2808004989 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2158 GMT
27 Aug 89

[Text] Caracas, 27 Aug (DPA)—Shortly after taking office today, new Venezuelan Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueredo Planchart expressed concern about the Panamanian situation, but emphasized that his country will respect the Panamanian people's self-determination.

In his first remarks after assuming office, Figueredo told the media that he will analyze with Enrique Tejera Paris, his predecessor, future steps to be taken by Venezuelan diplomacy to contribute toward a solution to the Panamanian crisis.

The new foreign minister, appointed yesterday following the resignation of the cabinet of President Carlos Andres Perez, stressed the "[words indistinct] basic principle of self-determination," which includes the right that each country has "to its own democratic process."

Last week, Venezuela suffered a diplomatic defeat at the meeting of OAS foreign ministers when a motion presented by Tejera Paris on Panama was rejected by a majority because it was viewed as harmful to the principle of self-determination.

The proposal, supported by the United States, demanded a change of government in Panama prior to 1 September. Meanwhile, it was learned in Venezuelan circles that Venezuela [words indistinct] break diplomatic relations with Panama.

According to observers, this position contradicted the stand of President Perez, who favors a negotiated solution to the Panamanian crisis. This tacit confrontation was the cause for the removal of Tejera Paris from the Foreign Ministry.

Figueredo Planchart stressed: "It is up to [words indistinct] and us, the Latin Americans—who pay attention to and worry about the people's victories, such as the Torrijos-Carter treaties—to see to it that they are respected."

Asked about the Colombian situation, the new foreign minister noted that Venezuela has taken precautions to guarantee the security of its territory in the face of the possible infiltration of drug "lords."

Concerning the meeting of the Nonaligned Movement scheduled for September in Belgrade, Figueredo Planchart said that Venezuela will become a member of that organization, and one of the main topics it will take to the meeting will be Latin America's economic development problems.

New Group To Fight Government Corruption

PA2408184589 Paris AFP in Spanish 1623 GMT
24 Aug 89

[Text] Police sources have confirmed that three devices went off this morning at the main entrance of the Venezuelan Senate. No damage was reported, but the devices strewed pamphlets from a previously unheard of group opposed to government corruption.

Three out of four devices that were placed inside fountain pen boxes went off near the doors of the 100-year old capitol building, right in the center of Caracas, causing alarm to passers-by.

Flysheets strewn by the devices claimed that the attack was made to fight administrative corruption and signed by a previously unknown group calling itself the "Bolivar Military Unit."

During the past 3 months, the Venezuelan Congress has heard a host of reports on administrative corruption, especially against close assistants to former Social Democrat President Jaime Lusinchi (1984-1989).

The "Bolivar Military Unit" pamphlets asked that "the corrupt be executed" and ended by declaring "an all-out

war against the guilty," according to Caracas station Radio Rumbos.

*** Inflation Rate Calculated at 57.6 Percent**

33480247b Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish
5 Jul 89 p D7

[Text] Inflation during the first half of 1989 amounted to 57.6 percent, the Central Bank of Venezuela reported on 4 July. The prices of food, beverages, and tobacco products increased by 72.8 percent; clothing and footwear, by 46.8 percent; expenditures in the home, by 50.2 percent; and miscellaneous household expenditures, by 52 percent.

The growth rate of the consumer price index for the metropolitan area of Caracas again declined in June 1989 to 3.2 percent, a rate which is half the level recorded in May 1989 (6.4 percent) and was also below the rate recorded in June 1988 (85 percent), when the price control system was in effect.

In the same way there was a decline in the number of items which recorded price changes in June 1989 (55.7 percent), compared to 66 percent in May 1989.

The previously mentioned decline in prices in June 1989 is explained principally by the drop in prices recorded in the household expenditures group, specifically for vehicles, clothing, and household equipment, as well as a smaller increase in the clothing and footwear group (2.1 percent), compared to an increase of 7.4 percent in May 1989.

An analysis by commodity group makes it possible to conclude that food, beverages, and tobacco increased in price by 6.3 percent basically due to increases in the subcategories of grease and oils (22.7 percent), eggs (20.3 percent), sugar, jams, and candy (16.6 percent), vegetables (8.9 percent), fruits (7.1 percent), alcoholic beverages (814.2 percent), and tobacco products (54.4 percent).

In the case of clothing and footwear the rate of increase was 2.1 percent in June 1989, or significantly lower than that of May 1989 (87.4 percent). Furthermore, it was observed that all components of this group reflected a substantial decline in price.

The index pertaining to household expenditures declined by 1.0 percent in June 1989, due principally to the reduction which took place in the vehicle subgroup (-10.5 percent), and clothing and household equipment (-0.48 percent). These declines more than made up for greater increases recorded by the subgroups of miscellaneous household expenditures (9.9 percent) and housing and related services (2.5 percent), by comparison with May 1989.

The miscellaneous expenditures group recorded an increase of 4.9 percent in June 1989, linked to price increases in the subgroups of medical services (6 percent), personal services (6.8 percent), education and culture (10.2 percent), and entertainment and recreation (3.9 percent).